

*Telegraphs Act*

9½ duplex circuits, which is probably four times the amount that is required for its Canadian business. I think they could do that quite well.

**Mr. Green:** We had evidence, if I remember correctly, that they did not have the facilities now to do this business, and they would require this new cable in order to do it.

**Mr. Marler:** That is not supported by the evidence before the committee. My hon. friend knows, and I think it was said a dozen times in the committee, that these facilities are there that can be used by Commercial Cable. They can be used for any purpose for which duplex circuits can be used. Now please, Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. gentleman will not try to go on attempting to persuade this committee that it is vital that these circuits should be opened in Canada now. There are 9½ duplex circuits now. The Commercial Cable Company is quite capable of laying a coaxial cable to service its United States business, without any difficulty whatever.

**Mr. Green:** But they cannot do business in Canada.

**Mr. Marler:** They cannot do any more business than they can carry on 9½ duplex circuits, which is about four times more than they require.

**Mr. Green:** All of this is done to protect a crown company, Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation. Will the minister tell us how much money it is going to cost this crown corporation for their share of this partnership cable which is being opened in October?

**Mr. Marler:** When the C.O.T.C. estimates are before the committee or when my estimates are before the committee I would be glad to do that, but that is not relevant to this bill.

**Mr. Green:** The minister has explained, as the basis for the need of this bill, that the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation is going to be able to provide sufficient service to last Canada for an indefinite period.

**Mr. Marler:** No, no.

**Mr. Green:** That is the basis on which he is refusing to let these people open the new cable. How much is it going to cost the Canadian people to have this partnership service which has been undertaken?

**Mr. Lesage:** What are you trying to do, protect the Americans against the Canadians?

[Mr. Marler.]

**Mr. Marler:** As I said, that is not material to the bill and I do not propose to deal with that aspect of the question now.

**Mr. Green:** I submit it is material to the bill because it is involved directly with this whole issue. How much money is it going to cost? The annual report of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation shows that there have already been advances from the government about \$8,050,000; their capital budget for the financial year ending March 31, 1957, at page 5, shows terminal equipment for trans-Atlantic telephone cable and then says that this equipment is not included in the total estimated expenditure of \$4.5 million in the T.A.T. cable project and that the \$4.5 million represents the corporation's expected payment as a party to the trans-Atlantic cable construction and maintenance contracts. Then, we have in the estimates this year an item for \$4,506,725, as a loan to this C.O.T.C. and in the supplementary estimates there is a further loan of \$1,908,256. Now, surely the minister can tell us how much money this corporation is going to have invested in this trans-Atlantic cable plan.

**The Chairman:** Order. It being five o'clock, the house will proceed to the consideration of public and private bills.

## PRIVATE BILLS

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The items under public bills having been exhausted, the house will resume the business which was interrupted at five o'clock.

## TELEGRAPHS ACT

## AMENDMENT CONCERNING CONTROL OF SUBMARINE CABLE INSTALLATIONS

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. 212, to amend the Telegraphs Act—Mr. Marler—Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 1—“*External submarine cable*” and “*telecommunication*” defined.

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Chairman, now that the private members' hour is over, perhaps the minister could give us those figures.

**Mr. Marler:** I do not have the figures with me. I think it is about \$4½ million but I am relying entirely on my memory. As I say, I do not think the investment of the C.O.T.C. in the new trans-Atlantic telephone cable is really pertinent to the purpose of the amendment to the bill we are discussing at the moment which is as to whether or not we should have a licensing system for the operation of submarine cable communications. I think it would be just as appropriate