

*Broadcasting Act*

It is not that condominium owners are looking for any special treatment. It is not that they are looking to be treated in a different way from anybody else. They say that what they want is exactly the same treatment as other home owners receive. If other homeowners are to have their garbage picked up, there is no reason why a condominium homeowner should not have his garbage picked up. If other homeowners are assessed on a certain basis, there is no reason why a condominium homeowner should not be assessed on the same basis. If all other homeowners are going to be excluded from regulation, licensing, and control under the Broadcasting Act, then there is no reason why a condominium homeowner should not also be excluded. To me that makes an awful lot of sense.

● (1620)

In this particular case, if what is being suggested here is examined, it is being suggested by the definition now in the Bill that a single family homeowner with a satellite television receiver in his backyard or on top of his home would not be subject to licensing, regulation, payment of fees, or anything else, but a condominium homeowner would be subject to all of those things.

I am one who has a good many condominium corporations in my constituency. In the present boundaries of my constituency I have the largest condominium corporation in the country, York Condominium Corporation No. 76 in the Crescent Town area. In the next election the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) will be running in the riding of the Crescent Town area, and York Condominium Corporation No. 76 will be transferred into the boundaries of his new riding. The Hon. Member pointed out quite clearly that Mr. Ernie Loader of York Condominium Corporation No. 76, and many others, have put to him, have put to me, and have put to the committee their position. In fact Mr. Ernie Loader appeared before the legislative committee on this Bill and put the position of York Condominium Corporation No. 76, and the position of all condominium owners across the country, very forcibly and very clearly that it was a matter of principle, and that is all it is. However, it is a very important principle and a principle that obviously, if we pass the Bill in its present form, we will be violating and discriminating against the condominium owner as a homeowner.

As I indicated, I do have a great many condominium corporations in my present constituency and also in the boundaries of my new constituency. I have been contacted by a great many of those people. When this Bill became public knowledge in July of this year I received more telephone calls in my office in one week than I received last summer with respect to the landing of the Sikh refugee claimants in Nova Scotia, and more telephone calls than I received with respect to the landing of the Tamil refugee claimants on the East Coast the summer before. It was a very, very hot issue as far as condominium owners were concerned. I was deluged with phone calls.

I was subsequently deluged with letters, not only from the Crescent Town, York Condominium Corporation No. 76, but also from the Flemingdon Park condominiums, including the Vicora Linkway condominiums, the Windy Golfway condominiums, and further to the north near Highway 401 and Don Mills Road, the Graydon Hall condominiums. They have all been in touch with me on this matter of principle. They have been in the process of contacting condominium corporations across the country. As they point out, 5 per cent of Canadians live in condominiums. When one calculates how many people we are talking about here, it is over 1 million Canadians who live in condominiums and who will be affected by the terms of this particular piece of legislation. and that is why they are upset and concerned, that is why they are looking for the Government not to discriminate but to deal with this on a fair and equitable basis.

This is an issue with which I have been concerned and involved as a result of representations made by condominium owners from the very first moment that I indicated that I was going to stand for federal office back in 1982. Some of the first people who came to me at that time were representatives of York Condominium Corporation No. 76. Mr. Loader came to me at that time and pointed out the great concerns that he had with the legislation of the former Government, and the great concerns that all condominium corporations had with the legislation of the former Government in this respect.

He asked me, and he implored me to ensure that, if the Progressive Conservative Party formed the next Government, it would certainly not make the same mistake and would ensure that in broadcasting legislation condominium owners were dealt with in the same manner as other single family dwelling owners.

He asked me to bring that to the attention of the Leader of our Party (Mr. Mulroney). I did. I have written to the Prime Minister on numerous occasions since that time, and have raised representations, both privately and publicly, on numerous occasions since that time. I have met with various Ministers of Communications on numerous occasions since that time. I have met with their staff on numerous occasions since that time. I have found that a great many people on all sides of the House shared the concerns with respect to condominium corporations.

Back in 1985 a government Bill was put forward which was then known as Bill C-20. It contained similar provisions which caused great concern with condominium owners. Quite frankly, it led to the establishment of something that the Hon. Member for Ottawa Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) has subsequently come to refer to as the dinosaurs. It led to the establishment of the back-bench committee of the Progressive Conservative Party. It was Bill C-20 that created it. As a result of that, a great many people who were concerned banded together to try to deal with it in some logical, civilized and reasonable way, and to persuade the Government to make some changes in that Bill. The result of it was that the Bill was not proceeded with when the first session of this Parliament came to an end. In