

Private Bills

are being provided by Northern Electric. They are imaginative; they are scientific; they are going ahead; they are doing a good job, and also they are creating a great deal of employment at home. I myself know, so far as the Belleville operation is concerned, that it is a very good one. They are entering into competition, and with some insight and ingenuity they are coming out on top.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support the bill presented by my hon. friend from Brantford (Mr. Brown).

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, we do not object to Bill No. S-27 being passed, as the hon. member who has just resumed his seat said; however, I think he is wrong in saying that the Bell Telephone Company, a private enterprise, has competition in Canada or in our province.

The Bell Telephone Company is now a monopoly and when we hear a very dear friend of the hon. member, Hon. René Lévesque of the province of Quebec, saying that the Bell Telephone Company has to be nationalized in order that the control of that public service be eventually resumed in our province or in Canada, I think the hon. member should consult his bosom friend, Mr. René Lévesque, before making such statements.

We do not object to the Bell Telephone Company having 20, 25, 35, 50 or 1,000 directors—a request for 20 directors is now being made—we have no objection to their number being increased to 1,000 or 10,000 it matters little to us, but we must understand the reason for the existence of the Bell Telephone Company. We, of the Ralliement Crétiste, are undoubtedly in favour of private enterprise and we necessarily want to give it full freedom, as long as there is competition to safeguard the rights and the interests of consumers and of people in need of its services. However, we are against trusts. There is federal legislation against trusts that might be set up or be in existence in this country. This act has not been enforced, not only in the case of the Bell Telephone Company, but in many other cases also.

Mr. Chairman, Bill No. S-27 comes to us from the Senate.

Earlier, at five o'clock, the private members' hour, private bills were called. At that time it was said that such and such a bill was allowed to stand at the government's request, and finally we came to Bill No S-27.

[Mr. Temple.]

Mr. Chairman, all those bills come to us from the Senate, from the other place. I believe that we should not, as responsible members elected by the people, accept any bill from the Senate.

The Senate is a place made up of gentlemen, former politicians, from one party or the other, who are not elected by the people, who have never represented the people since they were summoned there. And yet, they are now trying to rule the roost so far as selecting the legislation to be presented to the House of Commons is concerned.

A little earlier, a bill to incorporate a bank and another to incorporate the Congregation of the Marist Sisters were allowed to stand so that we could finally reach Bill No. S-27 entitled: An Act respecting The Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what is going on between the Senate and the government—besides there are not many ministers here now and I do not know what happened. However, we firmly intend to stop the passing of all bills that will come to us from the Senate as long as the bill of the premier of British Columbia to incorporate the Bank of British Columbia is not passed by the Senate.

I solemnly declare that we do not intend to let the Senate tell us what to do in the House of Commons, because not a single senator has been elected by the people whereas we and you, Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Villeneuve will surely agree that his remarks go far beyond the scope of clause 1 of Bill No. S-27 under consideration.

His comments are interesting, to be sure, and hon. members are no doubt listening to them with great attention, but under standing orders, the hon. member is not allowed to go beyond the scope of clause 1 of the bill now under consideration.

Mr. Caouette: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again I will abide by standing orders which forbid my going beyond the scope of clause 1 of Bill No. S-27. I just wanted to point out that since the senators, for whom I have a great deal of respect, are not elected representatives of the people, we will object as long as necessary to any bill from the Senate submitted to the House of Commons.

[Text]

Mr. Basford: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Caouette: Definitely.