

On Section 40: Networks.

Section 40 agreed to.

On Section 41: Repeal.

Section 41 agreed to.

On Section 42: Commencement.

Section 42 agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, honourable senators, that leaves us with section 22 only outstanding. What is the wish of the committee with respect to meeting to deal with this section?

Senator ASELTINE: I believe Mr. Nowlan would be available tomorrow morning.

The committee adjourned.

Upon resuming at 6 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, we have a quorum. The section that we had agreed to was section 14(2), the wording of which, as suggested by Mr. Thorson, is as follows:

(2) The Governor General may exempt from the operation of this section, upon such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council may prescribe, any person who, at the time of the coming into force of this Act, was the holder of a licence and was not a person described in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1).

Mr. THORSON: Those last words are the words now added; they have reference to a situation whereby a person who now complies with the requirements of section 14 ceases to comply sometime in the future. For example, a Canadian citizen acquires at some future date a different nationality, and then makes application to become a licensee. It is to eliminate that, but otherwise it has the effect indicated this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you repeat that explanation, Mr. Thorson? I am not clear about it myself, and I do not think the committee is.

Mr. THORSON: Let us take an example of a Canadian citizen today, who would of course comply with the present section 14. Let us suppose five years from now he becomes a citizen of another country, say of the United States. You do not want that person to qualify under the new provision being added. That is to make it clear that the exemption provision will extend only to those persons who today, that is to say at the time of coming into force of the act, were the holders of licences and were not persons described in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection 1.

Senator BRUNT: As long as that person stays in the status quo he is today, he is all right?

Mr. THORSON: That is right.

Senator VIEN: I am not so sure.

The CHAIRMAN: Neither am I.

Senator BRUNT: I want to be sure that the present holders of licences are protected.

Mr. THORSON: Oh, definitely.

Senator BRUNT: And that they will have the right to apply for any additional licence in the future.

Mr. THORSON: Well, as I understand it, the problem is to protect those persons who would not otherwise qualify under the existing language of the section, because they do not fulfil the requirements set out in clause 14 of the bill.