

Government Orders

will be out in their cars and they will be making reports to their offices, reports on sales calls, prices on sales calls, they might talk about discounts they are giving to their clients, and they will talk about marketing strategies. Most of the small business people I have talked to are not aware that discussion is like talking on a radio and the chances are pretty high that everything they are saying is being picked up by someone else.

This can lead to a type of espionage. As more and more people develop the ability to use the scanning systems then people's efforts to sell their products and services can unknowingly be subverted. Even though we are sympathetic to the fact that the police must have support and access so that they can use electronic surveillance where there is a potentially dangerous situation, and even though we are sensitive to streamlining the Criminal Code, we have to be very forthright with the people of Canada that these cellular phone systems are not what most people think they are in terms of security.

I realize more and more people are buying these scrambling systems but I think that these scrambling systems should almost be a part of the cellular phone itself in order to make these conversations we are having on these phones secure.

If we do not address this notion of privacy and protection for the small business person then eventually the cellular phone companies are going to experience a tremendous backlash. That backlash will not only affect their business but it will also affect the efficiency of the small business person.

• (1625)

Remember, many people started using these phones many years ago to help improve their business efficiency. In my city of Toronto, where there is a lot of traffic, one can get up in the morning, drive to work and use the phone while sitting in traffic. One might be stuck in traffic for an hour but all the time one can be communicating with various business colleagues or customers or making appointments and setting up meetings. This has improved the efficiency of our small business sector which has helped the bottom line and ultimately helps the treasury of Canada. A highly profitable business ultimately is of benefit to all Canadians.

If all of a sudden small business people lose faith in the cellular phone system, it is going to slow down the efficiency of our greatest job creator. It will not just be the cellular companies that will end up being hurt by this backlash, where people will fall away from using the system, but it will also cause the price of the product to go up because the same efficiencies will not exist.

In my view, the way to counteract the current dilemma is maybe to get together with the cellular system and say that we want a system that when a cellular phone system is sold, included in the package is a scrambling device so that privacy will be maintained.

The other thing we are duty-bound to communicate to those people who are using cellars is that they are in fact highly susceptible to scanning devices that are in the marketplace right now which allow people to listen to all conversations. I really cannot imagine people using a cellular system if they thought that the difficulties they were having with their bank manager were public knowledge.

I cannot imagine people using a cellular system if personal difficulties they were having within their own companies with other employees were public or other people were listening to this in a designed way. They would not continue to have the same eagerness to live on the cellular phone.

I cannot imagine real transactions of a substantive nature, whether they be ideas for selling, or cost of selling product or service, or marketing designs or ideas, or real tactical exchanges that go on within a company in order to have a competitive edge, going on over a cellular system if the people who had these systems realized that their conversations were open to the public, not unlike the conversations you would have with a radio talk show host that would be going out to maybe 200,000 to 300,000 people.

As my colleague from Scarborough—Rouge River said earlier today, there are some areas within this bill to which the government has not been sensitive. I certainly could not support it in its current form.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, again I rise on this matter, having spoken to it both at second reading and report stage, and again draw to the attention of all of us who will be voting on it—and those reading