

Telegraphs Act

Mr. Fulton: I am sorry; I should have said a landing permit. He said that when he saw a company proposing to instal 24 duplex circuits, which would give 12 to 20 times the amount of capacity they are now using, he would feel inclined to question the necessity for or the appropriateness of that application. May I enter into an argument with him on this basis. When he rests his case on that position, is he not arguing on the basis of the old-style circuit and basing a judgment with respect to the use that will be made, can be made and will be desired to be made of the new facilities on the experience with old and obsolescent if not obsolete facilities? My information is that if the new facilities became available, the demand for them would be there and would greatly outstrip the demand for or the use that is now being made of the old facilities.

Mr. Marler: I thought that this morning or perhaps early this afternoon I had tried to make it clear that when we were talking about the duplex circuit it did not make any difference whether you had one duplex circuit out of 120 in a coaxial cable or one duplex circuit out of an existing cable that has a capacity of 4 duplex circuits, we still come down to the same units. The only question is what they are going to be used for. I am not a technical person. I am afraid that is all too obvious. All I can say is that I think you can put the telex circuit just as well in one of the existing cables as in a coaxial cable. I know that you cannot put a voice circuit in a cable that has a capacity of only 8 simplex units.

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Fulton: A statement has been made that 15 out of the 24 proposed circuits have already been spoken for. Of course that is an indication that 15 out of the 24 would be used if a permit were given and the cable installed.

Mr. Marler: That was not made clear until we met in the committee the week before last.

Mr. Fulton: It is a fact, is it not?

Mr. Marler: No. I am not saying it is a fact. I admit that it was said in committee.

Mr. Fulton: Does the minister know what the situation is? What is the minister's information as to the indicated demand for these circuits.

Mr. Marler: All I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that when the company made its application in September, 1954, in their application they said that they had not made any survey of the Canadian market or of Canadian requirements. In other words, I think

the clear implication of that is that at that time it was not a factor as to whether or not the project should go ahead. What has happened is, as time has gone by the company has become more and more insistent that the Canadian traffic they wished to carry over this proposed cable has become increasingly important. If the hon. gentleman had participated in the discussions he would have found that the emphasis had changed from one of meeting a defence need to the point that we must have a better commercial service for Canadians. I leave it to the hon. gentleman to form his own conclusion as to why that change was made.

Mr. Fulton: This is a commercial company and I am asking what is the most recent up to date information as to the extent to which the potential cables have been spoken for?

Mr. Marler: I have no information on that subject.

Mr. Fulton: So, we have no reason to disbelieve then that the 15 out of 24 were not already spoken for?

Mr. Marler: My information, Mr. Chairman, is that my officials consider that is a very optimistic assessment of the possibilities.

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Lesage: Carry on the filibuster. Now, we can see the pattern.

Mr. Green: As long as I feel this question should be discussed. Is the minister not able to say whether the claim made by Mr. Henderson, which I read a few minutes ago from page 205 of the committee record, is accurate or inaccurate? Here is a man who is the executive vice-president of a very old and efficient company. He came before that committee and made this statement of the business they expected to do in Canada. Is there any real reason to question the accuracy of that statement?

Mr. Marler: I think the hon. gentleman should be able to answer that question himself.

Mr. Green: The answer is obvious, that there is no good reason to question it. How is this company to furnish these services if this veto which has been placed upon their expansion by the Department of Transport is to be continued. Is there any possible way that the company can provide that service for which they have a demand?

Mr. Marler: I think there is a very simple way. The company can lay a coaxial cable to serve its United States traffic, without landing that cable in Canada. It has got already