

Telesat Canada Act

• (12 noon)

Personally, when I realize that we want to establish a company whose exact cost we do not know—there is talk of \$60 million—I ask myself this question: Should we not start by providing services to those who do not receive any and by seriously analysing the situation in Canada, in order to prove that the C.B.C. has not given the services it is capable of giving?

And that, to prove that the amendment proposed cannot be accepted, because already too many Crown corporations have replaced the private enterprise which should continue to accomplish miracles more than it does.

However, I notice also that the minister seems quite anxious that his bill be passed.

I recently read an article by Mr. Guy Cormier, in the newspaper *La Presse*, where he said precisely that, in the province of Quebec, all the resources are not in our possession. Agreed.

But the Quebec government was not the last to recognize the interest of innovations which may upset seriously the law of knowledge and alter the process of relations between peoples. Without exaggerating, one might say that it was Ottawa that was slow in taking action. There had to be strong pressure three years ago to get the federal government interested in that field.

When it decided to do something about it, it worked frantically, upsetting private enterprise, often giving the impression that it wanted to put Quebec in its place at any cost.

I agree with the newspaperman that we are going a little too fast, and when the government in office, the government party, agrees to create a company which would operate in co-operation with private enterprise, that is what we want. But seeing some individuals in the private sector associating with some ministers, I know that the socialist members have presented their amendment because they are afraid at times that the electoral fund of a certain party will be too fat to let those who want to become millionaires dominate.

This concern is probably the reason why the amendment was proposed but it seems to me that with so many intelligent people and a minister known for his honesty and who will probably ask the Prime Minister and his associates to abolish the electoral fund, some understanding could be reached whereby private industry could go ahead while there is an assurance that there will be no contributions to the electoral funds to have one company preferred over another.

I was a delegate to Paris especially while the satellite question was under review. There I saw the *Symphonie* satellite which, in

[Mr. Dumont.]

1972, might be used for French broadcasts from Halifax to Banff. On account of the official languages bill and because of the two cultures we have in Canada, I would agree in having a satellite for English broadcasts as well.

However, in the case of companies entrusted with these broadcasts, some care will have to be exercised in view of the amendment proposed yesterday by the socialists who are represented by the New Democratic party in Canada.

While wondering about the speeches that have been made and in particular on hearing the minister say that the province of Quebec cannot afford it, so we will soon help this province in obtaining for it a satellite through the establishment of a company for this purpose, I just say to him that France is ready to offer free broadcasting to Quebec, providing there are relaying facilities. That is why we would not be a burden for the federal government.

However, it is from this angle that the minister should study the matter because I am convinced that when people who are sincere and honest in politics, when the N.D.P. members are concerned, it is always about the same thing, the same campaign fund that cannot be abolished, that will force the government to choose some company that makes contributions.

We know very well that behind the scenes pressures sometimes force some ministers not to act as they want and that is why I ask our minister to study carefully this aspect of the matter, especially as France will have in the near future a new Prime Minister, and we will be able to obtain more co-operation and have broadcasting in Canada in English and in French and not from a satellite operated by some company which would perhaps impose on us a satellite which would broadcast in English only and would give only translation to the rest of Canada.

Moreover, I think that the minister is not at the end of his troubles and his problems. I asked him in this house a question to find out whether he would send representatives from all parties to a recent meeting held with 80 countries in Washington, in order to know what the true problems are and to bring in what we from this side of the house, who believe in private enterprise, believe to be the best solution possible.

It is in this spirit of co-operation that I want to speak today to be able to promote the