

*Bell Canada Act***GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**BELL CANADA ACT**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-19, An Act respecting the reorganization of Bell Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are 15 report stage motions set down on today's Notice Paper in amendment to Bill C-19, An Act respecting the reorganization of Bell Canada.

Motions Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 8 in the name of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), and Motions Nos. 3, 4 and 10 in the name of the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone), were moved and negatived in committee.

After consultation with the Hon. Members concerned, Motions Nos. 1, 5 and 10 will be selected. Accordingly, Motions Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 8 will not be selected and, therefore, will be dropped from the Notice Paper.

● (1220)

Motions Nos. 7 and 11 present to the Chair some procedural difficulties. The effect of Motion No. 7 would be to make Bell Canada responsible for the content, meaning and purpose of messages transmitted, emitted or received through the services or facilities of the company. Since Clause 8 of the Bill stipulates that Bell Canada shall not in any way exercise control over the contents, or influence the meaning or purpose of such messages, such a change is clearly beyond the scope of the clause it purports to amend.

Motion No. 11 seeks to bring Bell Canada Enterprises under the terms of the Bill. This also was not the intention of the House when the principle of the Bill was agreed to at the second reading stage.

For these reasons, it would be my intention to rule Motions Nos. 7 and 11 out of order.

For the benefit of Hon. Members and for the purposes of clarification, let me now indicate how all of the motions listed are to be dealt with.

As Motions Nos. 1, 3A and 5 share the common theme of universal access to telephone service at a reasonable cost, they will be grouped for debate and will be voted on separately. Motions Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are not selected. Motion No. 6 will be debated and voted on separately. Motion No. 7 the Chair believes, is out of order. Motion No. 8 is not selected. Motion No. 8A will be debated and voted on separately. Motion No. 9 will be debated and voted on separately. Motion No. 10 will be debated and voted on separately. The Chair views Motion No. 11 as being out of order. Motions Nos. 12 and 13 will be combined for debate. An affirmative vote on Motion No. 12 obviates the question being put on Motion No. 13. A negative

vote on Motion No. 12 will require the question to be put on Motion No. 13.

If there are procedural arguments that Hon. Members wish to make with regard to Motions Nos. 7 and 11, it would be my intention to hear such argument when those motions would be otherwise be called, assuming Hon. Members are not ready to do that now.

For the time being, motions to be called would be grouped, Motions Nos. 1, 3A and 5.

**Mr. Vic Althouse (for Mr. Orlikow)** moved:

Motion No. 1

That Bill C-19, be amended in Clause 6 by striking out line 27 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"(a) Furnish the service at the lowest possible price with universal access by subscribers; and".

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (for the Minister of Communications)** moves:

Motion No. 3A

That Bill C-19, be amended in Clause 6 by striking out line 3 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

"(c) if the Commission has not otherwise specified, the Company has not received therefor".

**Mr. Vic Althouse (for Mr. Orlikow)** moves:

Motion No. 5

That Bill C-19, be amended in Clause 6 by striking out lines 3 to 5 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

"(c) a financial guarantee of payment by the customer or a third party or such provisions in respect to advance payments that may be established by the CRTC both of which shall not amount to more than one month's advance payment of the subscriber's normal monthly charge."

He said: Mr. Speaker, I want to support the motion that I have just moved on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). Two motions, Nos. 1 and 5, were intended to be grouped for debate. I want to make it fairly clear to the House as to what is intended here.

In the first amendment we are proposing to add in the words that Your Honour has read, the idea being to provide universal access to subscribers. Motion No. 5 would clarify that, and make universal access more clear in that it would not require such a large downpayment to have service in effect. We read the current Bill as providing the possibility for the phone companies, for Bell Canada, to charge as much as an advance of six months in regular service for the provision of the service, and we think this is flying in the face of universal access. It flies in the face of the tendency of law in this country to move toward smaller downpayments for service. When one goes to rent an apartment now the landlord is limited to much less than six months. In most provinces, it is only a one-month advance payment. We think that this kind of universal access should be consistent in our policies and procedure and that providing the possibility of charging for six months' service in advance, without pointing out what will be required or how that will be paid back, or if in fact the customer will get it back, is not the way to write good law, and it is not consistent