

*Adjournment Debate*

With regard to exempting regulated business activities from the purview of this Act, I am aware of your department's opinions that existing jurisprudence will provide this exemption, but this is merely a legal opinion—

Let me emphasize that the Minister said "this is merely a legal opinion".

—based on current jurisprudence. If the federal Government believes that the regulated industries should be excluded, the legislation should be explicit in this regard. To avoid possible litigation over competition issues within regulated environments, the Act should include a new section which would exempt regulated activities in general, or at the very least, section 2.1 should specify that regulated business activities undertaken by Crown corporations are explicitly exempt.

This has aroused the concern of the duly elected Government of Manitoba and it has been brought to the attention of the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I would hope the amendment we have put forward will be accepted so that the concerns raised by the Government of Manitoba could be addressed by the Government.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this provision of the Bill worries me because there is a danger that it would open telephone services to competition. Experience has shown that a monopoly in this sector of our economy is more appropriate to meet the needs of our population than a competitive system. We have seen in Manitoba, with the Manitoba Telephone System, that we can provide a good service and use the revenues from the profitable part of these activities to subsidize other activities. It is important to maintain a good telephone service at very low rates so that everyone will be able to afford the telephone.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague has proposed a very important amendment to clarify this section so that the Competition Tribunal Act will not apply to crown corporations and telephone services in Manitoba.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Consumer and Corporate Affairs—Profits of wheat millers; the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Attewell)—Government Expenditures—Monitoring of examination of task force options; the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi)—Refugees—a) New determination process. b) Portuguese visas inquiry.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** I would also like to call the attention of the House to the fact that, as most of you know, tomorrow will be an allotted day and we had anticipated to debate a Bill standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster). As tomorrow will be an allotted day, this Bill will be put back on the Order Paper in its proper order.

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[English]

### COMPETITION TRIBUNAL ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-91, an Act to establish the Competition Tribunal and to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Bank Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and Motion No. 3 (Mr. Orlikow) (p. 13869).

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, the section to bring Crown corporations under the provisions of the Bill is one of the most progressive sections in the Bill. The amendment made in committee has met the approval of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The provinces, generally speaking, are content to have their Crown corporations—and we are dealing with those Crown corporations that deal in the market-place—be subject to the strictures of this Bill. In the normal course to suggest, for example, that there is something peculiar about a Crown corporation that suddenly does not have to worry about competition legislation surely is not appropriate.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The question is on motion No. 3. Mr. Rodriguez, for Mr. Orlikow, moved:

That Bill C-91, be amended in Clause 21 by striking out lines 33 to 35 at page 9 and substituting the following therefor:

"persons but not in respect of commercial activities engaged in by the corporation that are subject to specific regulation under federal or provincial statute."

Does it please the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** On division.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Agreed to on division.