

*Telesat Canada Act*

found out that it is generally officials or industrialists who use airplanes. With an electronic communication system, on the other hand, we shall be able to unite the North, not only as far as its economic development is concerned but also as far as its cultural and social development is concerned.

An adequate electronic communications system in the North will enable the people who live there, the Eskimos and the Indians in particular, to take part in the Canadian life. A few years ago, we granted them Canadian citizenship, but to enjoy this privilege, one must obtain the required information, and thus take part in the development of Canadian life.

Therefore, through a new system of telecommunication, Eskimos and Indians will be able to participate in the Canadian way of life and learn about every aspect of the economic, social and cultural life in Canada. I am sure the people, especially the natives in the North, will be most happy to look forward to the possibility of enjoying radio and television at home.

Another very important and concrete aspect of that new telecommunications system is that it will allow the industrious workers who head for the North and the resources to be developed there, to find life a little easier.

Such modern means, I believe, will enable us to attract the required technicians if we cannot find them on the spot, and to build communities with a new sense of purpose. In fact, while working towards the development of the northernmost areas in America, people will not suffer from isolation and will even be in a position to take part in all aspects of Canadian life.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to congratulate my colleague the Minister of Communications for having proceeded quickly in that field. It has tremendous importance for Northern Canada, for its inhabitants, and especially for the Eskimos and the Indians. For the first time in their whole life, once that system is established, those people will really be in a position to communicate with the other Canadian citizens and to take part in all aspects of life available to us in the South.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, even if the new telecommunications system does not concern my department directly, I must say that it will help unite our whole country through an exchange of communications in both official languages.

If we do experience problems in Canada at the present time, the reason is certainly a

[Mr. Chrétien.]

lack of communication. Many communities have suffered from a lack of communication with the centre of the country. I refer in particular to minority groups outside Quebec whose mother tongue is French and which have always felt isolated because they could not establish communication with most French-speaking Canadians.

For my part, I had an opportunity to meet many of them. In fact, some members of my family lived in Western Canada and, since means of communications were lacking, they were precluded from keeping some values to which they were devoted, for instance, their own cultural identity. This is why I say that this new telecommunications system will enable French-speaking Canadians throughout the country to unite and will give them a sense of participation to that entity which is our country. It is worthwhile to build it. But it is also important to set it up on modern bases and I am sure that this new telecommunications system will enable each Canadian region to understand one another better, to know themselves better and to build a society different from that of our Southern neighbours which shall prove to all nations of the world that it is possible to live in unity while being genuinely different.

[English]

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** It is very rare, Mr. Speaker, for one minister to wander into the preserve of another, but in the last few minutes the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) has done just that to the Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans). Since communications are what they are nowadays, that is, telephone and telegraph, not mail, we know the reason. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is trying to wipe away the sins he committed in Whitehorse only a few days ago. It provides an interesting footnote to the story of the north, a region which can apparently survive anything, including this government.

I hope the Minister of Communications will give us some guarantee when he closes the debate on the second reading of this measure; I trust he will not resort to the powers given him under clause 6 (1) (b) of this legislation where it is stated that the minister shall direct "suitable areas for the launching of satellites."

Knowing the luck he has enjoyed with the Post Office, I fear that if he ever pushes the button on a satellite going into space it will make a short curve, swerve back to earth and