

*Telesat Canada Act*

We should know, Mr. Speaker, where the federal jurisdiction and the national interest begin, on the one hand, and the provincial interest and jurisdiction on the other. This question was to be discussed at the last constitutional conference but the parties involved did not feel happy about the outcome. Such problems, and others as well, tend to linger in Canada.

That is the core of the matter; that is the answer we need before we embark on a course which could only worsen federal-provincial relations which are quite strained already.

In the course of his speech—and, technically speaking, it is very poor—the minister said, and I quote:

—extension of television service in both languages to all Canadians—

He carried on:

This satellite will broadcast both in French and in English; in short it will speak the languages of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, on March 1st, 1969 *Le Droit* from Ottawa—a well-known newspaper published an article under the heading: Eric Kierans states the objectives of the new Department of Communications. I quote:

—in rather confused terms, Mr. Kierans declared, Friday, that his new Department of Communications will be unable to dissociate entirely the container and the content of the messages it will transmit.

The minister stated, on second reading of Bill C-173 in committee, and I quote:

The department of Communications will be concerned with the transmission of the message and not the message itself—

But the minister lost no time in adding, and I quote:

—but the two cannot be dissociated from each other.

He says yes, but he says no. He agrees, but he does not.

Mr. Speaker, let us be honest about it and throw light on the situation.

Later, the minister added as follows:

The Department of Communications will not become a two-dimension department, exclusively concerned with the means and neglectful of the end.

What is that end? What are those means the minister intends to take to encourage better communications technically, culturally and socially in Canada? What is the ultimate goal of the minister, his department, and

Telesat Canada, since even we seem unable to discover it today?

Mr. Speaker, comparing what the minister said with the contents of this bill and his first speech on the matter, we cannot but be very puzzled about the real intentions of the federal government.

Michel Roy, in an article published in the newspaper *Le Devoir* on Saturday February 22, 1969 pin-pointed the problem as it exists in the province of Quebec in particular, and I quote:

Therefore, on the one hand, Quebec intends to set up a gigantic and complex telecommunication network which would serve cultural, educational, economic, scientific, administrative and social purposes and whose scope appears bewildering if we consider the as yet unsuspected potential of electronics and its innumerable applications; but, on the other hand, the development of the basic elements of this radio and television complex is singularly hindered by constitutional, political and financial obstacles.

As a matter of fact, concludes Michel Roy, if Radio-Quebec is not successful in getting a broadcasting licence and if, on the other hand, the initiative taken by Quebec in the field of satellites triggers the expected chains of reactions, if furthermore the budget limitations resulting from the state of our finances bring the government to cut down expenditures on educational radio and television, then we shall have the right to ask ourselves how and when might come about "an integrated and total communication network" as considered by the Quebec audio-visual development office, the true brain as far as the telecommunication policy is concerned.

● (3:40 p.m.)

Upon reading this article, Mr. Speaker, I ask myself two questions. Are we going to have two satellite networks, the Canadian government's and the Quebec government's? According to the Quebec premier, it seems that it will be the case since not one week goes by without the Quebec premier or the federal Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans) boasting loudly and making bold statements, each to promote its own satellite network.

We want to know, Mr. Speaker, for how long yet we will keep on paying for both, thus acting irresponsibly.

On the basis of our information it seems that in this field as in others, there will be a duplication of services and costs and taxes will increase since it will cost twice as much for the people of Quebec to have their own service in view of the fact that they are afraid of possible interference on the part of the Ottawa government.