

*Telesat Canada Act*

reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo)** moved:

That Bill C-184, an act to establish a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite, be amended, in clause 3, by deleting the words "together with such persons as are shareholders of the company from time to time"; and by deleting the words "with share capital"; and by inserting the word "Crown" before the word "company".

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) will agree, but I should like to suggest to Your Honour that you might exercise the discretion given to the Chair under Standing Order 73(10) to combine this amendment with the second amendment set out in the order paper in the hon. member's name.

Unless the second amendment is made in conjunction with the first amendment, assuming it is carried, then the bill would be just nonsense, because you would then have two directly conflicting provisions. It seems to me that it is essential that amendment No. 1 and No. 2 must be considered together. Perhaps Your Honour would rule that we might consider both amendments at the same time in order to decide whether or not this is a Crown corporation.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might say a word on behalf of the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) who moved this motion. We are quite prepared to agree to that suggestion. It will be obvious to those who have studied these two amendments that the second one is consequential and only necessary if the first amendment is adopted. If the first amendment is not adopted, then the second one is perhaps in vain. Therefore, it would be quite satisfactory as far as we are concerned to have the two amendments taken together. We want to be sure, if the first amendment is adopted, that provision is made for the necessary and consequential amendment. Therefore, we agree with the suggestion that there be one debate on the two amendments in the name of the hon. member for Waterloo.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. B  chard):** It is suggested that amendments one, two and three, standing in the name of the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman), be considered together. The purpose of the amendment is to convert the telesat Canada corporation

[Mr. Chr  tien.]

into a Crown company. If the first amendment were negated the third amendment would be a nullity. Therefore, it is suggested we leave the third amendment until we have considered the first. Should amendment No. 1 be decided in the affirmative then the house could consider the third amendment and dispose of it. We will now proceed with amendment No. 1.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to speak to this amendment which was originally proposed by the hon. member for Selkirk. It now stands in my name. I am asking for Telesat to be made into a Crown corporation. Let me make it very clear that my argument is not based on any ideological ground. I am trying to make a practical presentation in respect of why this should be a Crown corporation. Our feeling is that it will work much better and will serve the nation's interest to a greater extent as a Crown corporation than under the present arrangement suggested by the minister.

• (9:10 p.m.)

We are not opposed to joint participation, the crown participating with private interest or other governments. We can think of many instances where such joint participation would be of advantage. We have in the past made such suggestions, particularly with regard to the potash industry where we felt it would be advantageous for the crown to combine its resources with those of other interests in respect of certain kinds of development.

However, in this case it must be obvious that a very severe conflict of interest arises in trying to weld together the national interest as represented by the crown, the private interest as represented by investors, who after all are like other investors and interested only in the rate of return on their money, and the interest of the common carriers who in the communications systems are very eager to protect and enlarge their activities.

It became quite obvious during the committee hearings that these interests were in conflict. At one stage a very serious disagreement arose between the communications people and the minister as to who was to use the telephone openings in Telesat. Therefore, if the program is to be successful, this conflict must not take place. The best way of resolving the conflict is to ensure that the crown itself operates Telesat. It can bring in the private investors in other forms; it can issue debt instruments on the market; it can go to the