

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

policies. We were to be made a part of the national railway system, or I should say more precisely we were to be made a fully integral part of the national system of transportation, whatever contemporary technology made that system to be.

● (10:00 p.m.)

The issue today is acute, Mr. Speaker. Our promised causeway, on which \$15 million has already been spent, has now been finally thrown into the ashcan of unfulfilled obligations. The building of the causeway was not just an election promise but a commitment of one level of government to another, made over and over again by the representatives of the dominion government to the representatives of Prince Edward Island in this parliament of Canada. One must say, and one must always say if he believes in federalism, that without full faith and credit between the various levels of government within a federation, the functioning of federalism is difficult if not impossible.

I had today brought to my desk an old newspaper, the Charlottetown *Guardian* of February 2nd, 1967, dealing with the causeway in which the then Minister of Public Works, now the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) who is doing other things in other places, was reported as having assured me that by 1970—and note the precision, Mr. Speaker—2,004 people would be employed as a result of work that would be undertaken by the causeway. The year preceding that there were to be 1,833 people employed, and the year preceding that there were to be 1,549 people employed. After 1970, he did not wish to predict.

But with the causeway discarded, how cruel to pile Pelion upon Ossa in our terrain of discontent. Surely, this is too much even for the smallest province of Canada. Now, the C.N.R. wishes to increase the rates, and the government is going along with this iniquitous suggestion. I have two comments to make on this suggestion. The first is that while the Government of Canada, rightly or wrongly, decided to farm out this ferry service to the C.N.R. it did not thereby divest itself of its constitutional or indeed moral responsibilities in the field of interprovincial transportation. The mode of communication in transportation between one province and another is a very, very important federal responsibility.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, long ago in the days of the Bennett government, the operating deficit on this ferry service was transferred from the C.N.R. account to a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada. In other words, there was a fiscal recognition of the dominion government's obligation to join province to province. What is confederation all about if not at least that? Therefore, the C.N.R. need not penalize the people of P.E.I. and its neighbouring provinces in any exceptional and unique exercise in economy. Their job is to provide adequate service as agents for the Government of Canada, the government which is solemnly committed to provide full and ample service.

It is presumptuous of the C.N.R., with government connivance, to seek to impose excessive tolls on transportation between P.E.I. and the rest of Canada. To what other province of Canada do we pay admission? Does it cost to enter Ontario, to enter Quebec, to enter Manitoba, or any other province in this dominion except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland? Why must so high a price be paid by those of us who were born on islands?

We live in an age where discrimination is regarded as an evil ingredient of social life, and properly so. Why, then, is this kind of discrimination tolerated, yea fostered by the government of all Canada and of all Canadians? I ask that this measure be not proceeded with and that the government look into, by means of a modern device such as a task force or some other form of investigation, the prospect not of increasing the tolls or of holding them as they are but of abolishing them altogether. This, at least, would be something of a consolation prize for the long promised and much desired causeway now consigned to 60 years of neglect by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of the just society. Surely, upon the corpse of our causeway hopes anything less would be inadequate.

**Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have a very short and sweet reply to the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) in respect of tariffs on the Borden—Tormentine Ferry. The acting minister advises that the government's decision concerning passenger and automobile rate changes on the Borden—Tormentine Ferry will be announced in the very near future.