

Transport and Communications

set aside pending completion of its final report.

Despite this, the government house leader is determined to see that course is not followed. Despite the recommendations of the transport committee, the representations made to this parliament by Newfoundland members, the fact that the Newfoundland legislature opposes this step and the major unions and other bodies in Newfoundland are against this move on the part of Canadian National and the Canadian Transport Commission, the government house leader insists that the motions that were made in the committee were wrong, and that any recommendations made by the committee to set aside the decision should not be accepted.

As a Canadian of 20 years standing and as a new member of this house, this whole exercise has been quite disgusting to me. This power that has been exercised by the house leader—

An hon. Member: Nothing should worry you old colonial boys.

Mr. Carter: This is not a laughing matter. I ask the hon. member to speak from his seat. He might get picked up by *Hansard*, which is the only chance he will have. If the hon. member wants to say anything let him stand up and speak from his seat, instead of making snide remarks. We are old colonial boys and we are not ashamed of it. We are not ashamed of being colonials. Now we are Canadians and we want to be proud, but you are not making us very proud, and neither is your house leader. I recommend to your house leader—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I ask the hon. member to restrict his remarks to the motion before the house.

Mr. Carter: If hon. members opposite will confine themselves, sir, I will.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The hon. member for St. John's West has the floor.

Mr. Carter: I seriously recommend to the house leader that he start wearing a beard and smoking cigars, to take on the image.

An hon. Member: What does that mean?

Mr. Carter: Figure it out if you want to. The matter we are discussing here is a very serious one. What we are fighting for is for Newfoundland to be allowed to have rail passenger service. The committee on transport

feels this service is essentially Newfoundland's.

One hon. member opposite referred to the fact that priority has been given to the construction of a road system in Newfoundland. As my hon. friend from St. John's East said, until such time as Newfoundland can afford to spend \$500 million on developing an adequate road system we must be allowed to retain our rail passenger service. I urge the government to allow Newfoundland to retain this service because it is essential to the well being and the transportation needs of the Newfoundland people.

I am at a loss to understand why this great effort has been made by the government, especially by the house leader, to deprive Newfoundland of this essential service. As I said before, the committee passed motions and made recommendations. Despite this, the government house leader still insists that, because of some technicality, the motions were improperly presented, that the committee did not decide to include the motion in the report of the committee to the government.

I urge hon. members opposite to give this matter very serious consideration because it means a great deal to Newfoundland. It also means a great deal to the future of the Committee system of this parliament. The committee travelled to Newfoundland as well as to the other Atlantic provinces. It heard some 170 witnesses and received 105 briefs. If all this is to be ignored, I contend that our trip east was not necessary. It has been a complete waste of money.

• (8:50 p.m.)

The matter being discussed tonight is not only a question of whether Newfoundland can retain its rail passenger service; it is a question of whether the committees system and the new rules will work in this parliament. If committees make reports based on their findings and evidence as they travel across the country, and committees are to be bullied and their reports completely ignored by the house leader and the government, I contend that we might as well all pack up and go home because the committees system will not work.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part briefly in this debate because I think it has assumed an importance far beyond anything one might have anticipated at the start. As I see it, the