

allow the committee to sit and questions to be asked, and then the committee will decide to what extent the questions ought to be answered. No doubt the management of the railway will tell us to what extent they feel they can answer them.

Mr. Macdonnell: I would just venture to call to the minister's attention the fact that this committee is empowered to send for papers, persons and records, which was not the case with a certain previous committee.

Mr. Marler: That fact did not escape me.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Would the minister permit a question?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): Just a quick one. In his remarks the minister indicated that the arrangement with Hilton has been a matter of railway management, and the decision had been arrived at by the railway management. Would he indicate to the house whether the government as such is in agreement with this policy and the action which has been taken?

Mr. Marler: The government considers that the subject was a matter which should be decided by the management and, believing that, it allowed the management to decide it in accordance with the provisions governing the administration of the railway property.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Bell: May I ask the minister one question? Would he care to say now whether the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited are to be on a one-year basis again this year?

Mr. Marler: I would say the matter is under consideration at the present time.

Motion agreed to.

REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS, CERTAIN
ESTIMATES, ETC., TO RAILWAYS AND
SHIPPING COMMITTEE

Hon. George C. Marler (Minister of Transport): If I might have leave to revert to motions, I would like to move:

That the annual reports for the year 1954 of the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, the auditors' report to parliament in respect of the Canadian National Railways and Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, tabled on March 21, and the report for the year 1954 of the Canadian National Railways securities trust and the budget for the year 1954 of the Canadian National Railways and Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, tabled this day, be referred to the sessional committee on railways and shipping owned, operated and controlled by the government, together with the following items of estimates for 1955-56:

War Veterans Allowance Act

Vote 469, Prince Edward Island car ferry and terminals deficit, 1955;

Vote 473, North Sydney-Port aux Basques ferry and terminals deficit, 1955;

Vote 478, Maritime Freight Rates Act;

Vote 479, Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, deficit, 1955;

And that the resolution passed by the house on February 4, 1955, referring certain estimates to the committee of supply be rescinded so far as the said resolution relates to votes 469, 473, 478 and 479.

Motion agreed to.

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE ALLOWANCES AND
PERMISSIBLE INCOME, ETC.

The house in committee on Bill No. 164, to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952—Mr. Lapointe—Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 1—*Definitions*.

Mr. Brooks: I wonder whether the minister or his parliamentary assistant is going to make a statement at this time?

Mr. Bennett: I had not intended to make any statement. This bill has been considered carefully by the special committee on veterans affairs. I think there are full explanatory notes with the bill before the committee.

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few remarks on this bill. It is now five minutes to ten. I was wondering whether we might call it ten o'clock?

The Chairman: Is it agreed that I rise, report progress and request leave to sit again?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Clause stands.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris moved the adjournment of the house.

He said. Tomorrow we shall begin with the adjourned debate on the motion to go into supply.

Mr. Green: May I ask the minister whether it is the intention to go on with supplementary estimates at eight o'clock?

Mr. Harris: I would hope, Mr. Speaker that before the day is out we could find that we could perhaps wind up some of the business of the house. I would be prepared to postpone consideration of the supplementary estimates if we could find a way of doing that. However, if there is no possibility of doing so we shall take the estimates late tomorrow night. Otherwise they might go over until the following day.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 9.55 p.m.