

Hon. Mr. McDonald: But we have railroads that start nowhere and end nowhere, and it seems to me that many of these could be abandoned, if we had joint railroads connected together a few miles away that would be cheaper to operate and would virtually serve the same communities.

Canada has often been described as a very difficult country in which to provide transportation. This is quite true. From east to west it is many thousands of miles in length, but very narrow in width, north to south. It is most difficult to provide an adequate transportation system when not only do you have this extreme distance from east to west and narrow width from north to south, but when the natural lines of traffic on this continent in many instances are north and south rather than east and west.

Here you have British Columbia cut off from the rest of Canada by the Rocky Mountains. British Columbia has far easier access into the United States than she has even into Alberta. Then you have the prairie regions cut off from Central Canada by the Great Lakes and that rocky terrain around the north of them. Then Senator Brooks and Senator Phillips explained the situation that exists in the Maritimes, where it is necessary to go north around a piece of the United States in order to get into the eastern part of Canada.

So it is difficult to tie this nation together with any type of transportation, be it railway, road, water, or air. But we have been successful in the past, and the progress we have made to date has been remarkable despite these natural difficulties that have been with us since this country was formed.

It seems to me that the legislation that we have before us will make it possible to do a better job in the future than we have done in the past.

The new commission, as the sponsor told us, will replace three old commissions. Some persons have said: You will have one big new group of bureaucrats doing what three small groups of bureaucrats used to do. Well, I do not look upon the commissioners of this new organization, or of the old bodies, as bureaucrats.

Senator Phillips said he hoped that these people would represent all Canada. I am sure we all agree with him in this desire, but it is my conviction that there are not 17 people in Canada who can do this job by themselves. Too often we set up commissions and send them off on the road without adequate staff,

without adequate personnel to serve them, without providing them with all the essential material and facts necessary for making a decision. It is my hope that such a mistake will not be made with this new commission. I sincerely hope that they will have at their disposal the necessary, qualified personnel to provide them with all the facts before any decision is made. This is very necessary if, as I said at the outset, the legislation or the programs and policies that are evolved from this piece of legislation are to play the part they ought to play in developing the type of Canada that we would like to leave for Canadians yet unborn.

It seems to me that if we play no part, or if we do not interfere in any way with the natural growth of this country, then we are very apt to have a pattern of development similar to that in the great country to the south of us. It may be even more emphasized in Canada than in the United States because of the fact that we are a long narrow strip of land, which is how one could describe the occupied part of this country. It seems to me we could arrive at the day where we would have one City of Montreal with perhaps 20 million people, another 20 million people in Toronto, and another huge metropolitan area on the west coast, with very little in between and very little east of Montreal. I doubt if this is the type of Canada that our children and grandchildren would wish to live in. But if we give little or no guidance, this is very liable to happen. But if it does happen, this nation will be faced with tremendous expenditures many years from now to solve the problem that this type of development creates.

Think of the tremendous problems in the great cities in the world today with water and air pollution, with the problems of supplying fresh water and the problems of transportation. Untold millions of dollars will have to be spent on large cities, especially in the United States, in the very near future just to keep them habitable. This same situation could develop in Canada. Instead of having three or four large metropolitan areas, I would much prefer to see Canada develop 20 or 30 smaller metropolitan areas. This will cost money, honourable senators, but I doubt if in the end the expenditures will be greater than those involved in the type of growth that has taken place in that great country to the south of us.

I believe that the transportation programs and policies that will be implemented under this bill will play a large part in dictating the