

problems before the expiry date of a wage agreement, so that when the expiry date arrives it is not a crisis date, it is simply that we then meet with a fairly clear idea on both sides of the ideas we have between us. We do not know, and neither do they—I am not speaking critically at all,—but under the present procedure neither side knows what the other side wants, thinking only of the time that is specified in the agreement whereby we can notify each other that we are not satisfied or we are satisfied.

Mr. GEORGE: The other point I made, and on which you did not comment—maybe you should not comment on it, but it is my suggestion that if these two groups met, perhaps an independent party, like a labour man from one of the universities, could be chairman.

Mr. GORDON: I would not like to comment on that. I do not know whether it would be practical, but it is something worthy of consideration.

Mr. GILLIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you if Mr. Gordon got the answer to a couple of questions I asked.

The CHAIRMAN: If I may, just a minute, Mr. Gillis—we have a very heavy agenda for this afternoon and I do not want Mr. George to think I am scolding him, because it is far from it, but I do wish to ask the members of the committee to extend the same cooperation as you always have in the past. Mr. Gordon and his officials are very anxious that we should complete our work today, and as to the part of our work that has already been done, the record will be printed and you will have an opportunity of reading it. Any of you who could not be in attendance when the different items were up in which you are interested can read the record. Please do not bring up now anything that has already been covered unless it is extremely urgent. Now, as to the different questions which have been asked and on which material has been promised, I have discussed with Mr. Gordon and he assures me he has all the answers ready. I think perhaps it would be more convenient to the members and would make a better record if we would deal with those when we have completed our regular work. We are now on page 2 of the budget, and at the second last item. That is the re-financing or financing previously authorized expenditures, and if you do not mind, Mr. Gillis, I would very much—

Mr. GILLIS: I don't mind at all, Mr. Chairman, but I wonder why you have allowed this last half-hour's discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I should not have allowed it.

Mr. GILLIS: I know that.

The CHAIRMAN: We are now on page 2, the second to the last item. Are there any questions?

Mr. MACDONNELL: I want to understand better the question of re-votes. I have been looking back to the Canadian National Railways' Financing and Guarantee Act, 1952, and I notice in *Hansard*, at page 3356, a statement by Mr. Sinclair, then Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, to this effect:

...the law officers of the Crown have ruled that the authority contained in the annual financing and guarantee acts does not expire at the end of the calendar year.

Now, I had understood yesterday that the view taken by the railways is that they did expire and that there has to be a re-vote, or am I confused?

Mr. GORDON: Well, I am not sure that I quite grasp your remarks. I also am guided by the lawyers in respect to the financial authorizations which have to be set up to take care of the figures we are now discussing, and they inform me for the purpose of our financing that in the financing and guarantee act which will go before the House this year it is necessary to include the figures which are shown on page 2 of this budget, and that includes the re-votes—you are speaking of the re-vote figure shown here, of \$35 million?