

*Pool Trains*

and I do not think the house in general approves of the use of such language, even though it may not be specifically prohibited by the rules. The words to which the hon. senior member for Ottawa referred were spoken on February 26 last. The hon. member was not under the disability that some of us are in being unable to understand the French language as spoken, he was present in the house and understood what was said at the time, no objection was made by him, and I do not think it is incumbent upon the Speaker now, on March 6, to take any action in the matter.

Mr. POULIOT: Therefore, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has stated his point of order, and the matter cannot be further discussed.

### POOL TRAINS

#### MONTREAL-QUEBEC AND TORONTO-OTTAWA PASSENGER SERVICES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I would like to get some information from the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion). He may not be able to give it to-day but might give it to-morrow. It is with regard to the pooling of trains between Quebec and Montreal which is announced to take place on the 10th instant. It is a peculiar pooling, in that all the Canadian National trains are taken away and all the Canadian Pacific trains remain. This will cause much inconvenience to the travelling public, and still more to the employees of the Canadian National Railways. I would like to have full information as to the conditions under which this pooling has been agreed to, in order that we may discuss it with full knowledge of the facts.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman said, I do not know the facts at the moment and cannot answer fully. I shall do so as soon as I get them. But let me say one thing now; that is that where trains are pooled and what my hon. friend calls the Canadian Pacific trains continue to run, the fact that the time of a pool train corresponds with the time table of the Canadian Pacific or the Canadian National matters not, because pooling means that the returns are pooled, so that it is as fair to one railway company as the other. I mention this so there will be no misunderstanding.

[Mr. Speaker.]

As to questions relating to hours, with which I presume my hon. friend is chiefly concerned, I shall make inquiry and endeavour to give a full explanation.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Are the employees also pooled? Are Canadian National employees going to work on Canadian Pacific trains? Because only Canadian Pacific trains are being retained, and they are being operated on the Canadian Pacific line.

Mr. MANION: As far as the employees are concerned, we put a clause in last year's bill which the railways claim they are living up to, providing that whenever any pooling is done every effort shall be made to be perfectly fair to the employees of both railways. In regard to the specific instance my hon. friend refers to I cannot give a particular answer, but the railway managements are endeavouring throughout the country, wherever there is pooling of shops or trains, to balance the employees of one railway with the employees of the other. However, I will give the hon. member a fuller reply as soon as I look into it.

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): While the minister is on that subject I should like to direct his attention to the proposed removal of trains Nos. 552 and 553 from the Toronto-Ottawa service. The trains leaving Ottawa have been packed to capacity, and I do not know how the service is going to be maintained if these trains are cut off. I direct the minister's attention to the further fact that if these trains are taken off it will mean that about seventy employees of the railways, including the crews of the two trains both ways, will be seriously affected by this decision of the railway companies. I should like to know on what basis the railway commission has decided to allow these trains to be cut off.

Mr. MANION: As my hon. friend knows, as Minister of Railways I have nothing whatever to do with the pooling of these trains; this is done under an arrangement between the managements of the two companies for the purposes of economy. I did have a statement which I received this morning, which unfortunately I did not bring with me, in regard to the pooling between Ottawa and Toronto and Montreal and Toronto, showing that they claimed a saving of something like a million passenger train miles per annum. They usually estimate the cost at \$1 a mile, so they figure they are making a very great saving. However, I merely emphasize the fact that neither the government nor myself, as minister, has anything to do with the pooling