

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: It was done pursuant to the C.N.-C.P. Act, under the authority of the C.N.-C.P. Act.

Mr. NICHOLSON: In what year was that?

Mr. VAUGHAN: The hotel was opened in 1939.

Mr. MUTCH: I do not know whether this is exactly the point at which to introduce it. I do not want to pursue it very far, but in all your hotel service, and specifically in the Vancouver Hotel. I think that the service to the public could be improved by a little cracking down on the private graft in connection with them. I refer to some of the employees in these hotels. It is a fact that at the present time, of course, accommodation is much less than public demand but without saying any more than that I think that some of your lower officials around that place are making almost as much money as the railways out of that hotel.

Mr. VAUGHAN: You are referring to the Vancouver Hotel?

Mr. MUTCH: Specifically.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Well, certainly if there is anything of that kind we will investigate it.

Mr. MUTCH: I do not mean anything essentially corrupt, but I do not think that the public are getting the service that they are entitled to. I think that the people who are flush are getting better service than the people who are not.

Mr. VAUGHAN: We will check up the service there, although I have not seen any complaints along that line, and we have had a great many compliments about the operation of the Vancouver Hotel.

Mr. MUTCH: The American tourist as an individual is a very profitable man for this business, but they have habits with respect to getting service.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I suppose the inference is that some of the hotel employees are accepting money for providing accommodation.

Mr. PICARD: That is general hotel procedure throughout Canada and the United States now.

Mr. MUTCH: I think it is a little bit more than an inference, and I think it is worse there than at any other hotel in the system.

Mr. HARKNESS: One of the things that is being referred to is along this line. You order a jug of ice and give the boy that brings it up a dollar. Then you want another jug of ice in a few hours and you get one, but if you give the boy 25 cents, and particularly if you give him nothing, you will wait for a dickens of a time before you get another jug of ice.

Mr. MUTCH: If you go in there and want a room and you know whom to see and how to talk to him you will get a room although you come in much later than other people who rely on seniority rather than subsidizing somebody. I do not suggest that it is a national scandal or anything of that description, but I do suggest that it has not been entirely helpful.

Mr. VAUGHAN: If anything of that kind is going on we will very soon correct it because it should not be.

Mr. PICARD: I think that it cannot be corrected anyway, because I have dealt personally with the president of a private hotel company and as you have said he has said, "I will investigate", but he admits frankly that it cannot be proven, it cannot be established. It is a practice that may be worse in Vancouver Hotel, but I know that it exists everywhere.

Mr. GIBSON: We need more accommodation in Vancouver worse than anywhere else.

Mr. PICARD: Are we going to be given a printed statement as to your hotel operations, or is that all we are going to get? We get one for the steamships.