

Provision of Moneys to CNR and Air Canada

To further indicate the attitude that was freely voiced by the Liberal members on the standing committee and to contrast it with their present attitude, I shall read from the report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, dated February 22 of this year. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) was questioning Dr. Noel Murphy who had delivered a very fine, thought-provoking brief. This will give you an idea of their attitude toward the problem. The following question was asked:

I would like to ask Dr. Murphy a question regarding the terms of entry into confederation on the part of Newfoundland. Do you mean to infer from your statement today that if 100 years from now it is demonstrated that rocket power is a far more feasible way to transport the people of Newfoundland around this province, and to communicate with the rest of Canada, that the people of Newfoundland will still insist that a passenger service, which by then may be completely outmoded and technologically in the stone age, should be retained?

• (8:40 p.m.)

This will give hon. members an idea of the attitude that prevailed.

Mr. Mahoney: What was the answer?

Mr. Peddle: I do not think Dr. Murphy should dignify that sort of garbage with an answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peddle: In 1966, when the question arose of the approximate deficit of \$900,000 for the CNR, all we heard was, "Look at what we give you in Newfoundland; we give you this and we give you that." Actually, Mr. Speaker, they gave us nothing. We made a deal in 1949; it was a two-way deal. Canada wanted Newfoundland, and Newfoundland wanted to join Canada. An agreement was entered into to that effect. Now, whether we like it or not, we are stuck with the deal and the CNR must treat us the same way it treats any other part of Canada. Although there are many ways of looking at Canada, I like to look at it as being composed of ten provinces—forgetting the territories for a moment—and each of the ten provinces representing a room in a house. Is it not kind of stupid to suggest that anyone who owns a house with ten rooms would let the roof over one of those rooms leak, without doing something about it? We entered Canada, and Canada accepted us.

Speaking as a taxpayer—and contrary to popular opinion, there are people in Newfoundland who pay taxes—whenever I come

[Mr. Peddle.]

to Ottawa and see all the nice trappings of the city and its nice buildings, I feel proud to have contributed to all this because it is part of my country. Likewise, I expect people who come to Newfoundland from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba or any other part of Canada, to be equally proud of what they see, because that is part of their country. It is not only our province; it is part of their country. Let us forget all this nonsense about, "We give you this and that." That is for the birds.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peddle: May I return to the subject of buses. On April 30 of this year, as reported at page 8168 of *Hansard*, I directed a question to the Acting Minister of Transport who is now the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Richardson)—you will recall that there was a bit of a mix-up between our ministers—and asked whether he would investigate a report of a serious accident on April 25 in which a bus with 30 passengers on board plunged over an embankment near Corner Brook. I think the whole side of the bus was torn off. Actually, the bus was a complete loss and nine of the 30 passengers had to go to hospital. The accident happened shortly after the inauguration of the bus service. I asked that question, as I say, on April 30 and the minister said the accident was being investigated and he would be pleased to report to me.

About a month later, on May 20, as reported at page 8831 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) if he would look into the matter, because I had not received an answer. He said he would be pleased to look into it. If I may be so bold as to say so now, I should be very pleased to get an answer. It is eight or nine months since the original question was asked. I can forgive the minister for being a little touchy or tender about the subject, but I still want an answer. I think it is in the national interest for us to have it. I do not think I have much more to say, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I do not know how much time I have left.

An hon. Member: Too much.

Mr. Peddle: Hon. members on the government side who are pressing me to sit down should be thankful that I have a very bad cold tonight, because I will now resume my seat.