

Committee on Railways and Shipping

As you travel throughout Europe you do not find hotels which are 1,000-room projects, with other hotels being constructed, each offering an increased number of rooms. Irrespective of the economic soundness of it, the building of gigantic and unfriendly hotels is a United States idea and many of those constructed in that country have been flops.

I can remember taking a room at the new Waldorf-Astoria when it was first opened. My room cost me \$25 for half a day, and I took it so I could say I had stayed there at the opening. I think I stood on the rug in that room for the entire day in order to get my money's worth. I did not want to go downstairs to see anything else, because I said to myself, "I have paid \$25 for the privilege of spending 12 hours in this joint, so I had better get my money's worth".

The management of the C.N.R. has done many things for which it deserves credit; but if the management of the C.N.R. and the representatives of the taxpayers in the House of Commons believe this hotel in Montreal is something which will benefit all Canada, surely the clever and ultra-brainy Hilton organization could have been induced to erect their own hotel. If the idea of the construction of this hotel was not good enough for the Hilton people we should benefit by their refusal, and construct a hotel in Montreal to accommodate not only those people travelling on the C.N.R. but all people coming to Montreal. Surely we need not rely on the prestige of the Hilton people to channel tourists and other visitors to this beautiful new multimillion dollar edifice. If we need that force behind us the construction of the hotel is not worth while.

Let us not continue to display marvellous architects' drawings to the people of Canada. Let us get down to earth and start to exert some of the old-time energy that made the C.P.R. what it is today. Let private enterprise do those things that are necessary and which will be profitable. Let those who build them take their chances. Don't put the burden on the taxpayers. If it does not succeed, let it crash; and let those people who have not the ability to manage or have not the foresight to plan for the future take their medicine. They are taking it now all over Canada, and they are perfectly able to take it on a project of this kind.

I would like to ask this question. If a 1,000-room hotel is necessary, how much more necessary would a 500-room hotel be? When we build something of this kind in this country, consider the position Canada is now in. When we build this absolutely necessary project—something the whole country has been crying for, something without which

Canada can never grow—we must go down and select foreign management for a government project for the first time in the history of Canada, I believe.

Let me say this to the members of the Liberal party. This is one of the worst slaps in the face this government has ever given Canada and the Canadian voters. I wish there were a by-election going on somewhere in Ontario. If there were, I would take on any Liberal and defeat him amongst the honest Canadians of Ontario on that particular subject, namely that the time had now come to use the Canadian taxpayers' money to build something we must have—the same as we had to have those hotels we are now selling—and that through the greatest stretch of imagination on the part of those in the government or the Canadian National Railways, they could not find competent management out of 15 million people in Canada.

If that is true the sooner we take the boundary line down and stop paying salaries for members of parliament in Canada, go south to Washington and join up with those people in the United States, the better. If the time has come when we have to go down there to seek management for an hotel, it has now become time to join up on all other projects in the same manner. Don't be afraid to face the facts if the facts are there. But they are not there, thank God. It is only the imagination of this Liberal government that has tolerated the management of the C.N.R. going down into the United States and bringing up foreign management for a Canadian project.

If that were true I would say there was no need to keep this parliament open. Let us go down and throw in our lot with them and let individual Canadians who have some guts left take their chances down there as Americans. I am sure we would not starve to death any more than we have starved in the past. There has never been a time when I have felt inferior to any American or to any foreigner, particularly when I was walking on my own, my native land.

I say this with all respect to the present management of the railroad and to the minister. I believe there has been a gross slip-up with regard to the idea of bringing in the Hilton people to manage this project. If it has been given the consideration it should have been given, and if it has one one-hundredth part of the merit we are led to believe it has, then I say you have shown a bad example to Canadians. You have taken the starch out of every decent young Canadian working for the Canadian National Railways. Out of 120,000 employees you say