

C.N.R. Financing and Guarantee Bill

are not members of the committee, it is precisely because the government tried to gag us by systematically keeping us away.

I am probably the only member here that does not belong to any committee, the less so to the transport and communications committee. This is why I did not attend the proceedings of the transport and communications committee and why I did not get this information.

Therefore, I must be satisfied with asking questions in the house since I do not have the opportunity to ask them in the committee. I admit this may give a little trouble to the minister. But what can I do, Mr. Chairman; it is not I who established this discrimination towards the member for Lapointe, but rather the government. I will not blame the Minister of National Revenue; I know he is not the type to participate in that kind of discrimination. I have always thought better of him. Therefore, I did not obtain the answers in committee, because I was not allowed to be a member thereof. No answer can be found to my specific question in the annual report of the C.N.R. Then, I think that it would be advisable to call upon the Minister of National Revenue to obtain the information from the C.N.R.

As it is past ten o'clock, well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call it ten o'clock which would give the Minister of National Revenue the opportunity to provide an answer to-morrow.

[*English*]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I did not suggest in my answer to the hon. member that the information was contained in the annual report of the C.N.R. I referred to the capital budget of the C.N.R. which has been tabled in this house. This is not available only to committee members but to all hon. members of the house who want to look at it. My hon. friend could have obtained most of the information he is asking for from that budget if he had wanted to look at it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I should like to tell the hon. Minister of National Revenue that I took the trouble to look for this information, but the expenditure in these different fields is not indicated for each province; let the minister see for himself.

If this information had been contained in the report, the minister would not have had to get up and say: I do not have the figures. Nor would he be forced to say: I do not know

[*Mr. Grégoire.*]

whether I shall be able to give these figures tomorrow. If this information were contained in the report, the minister would not have said that he would perhaps be unable to give me these figures tomorrow. The minister cannot even give these figures tonight or tomorrow because it may take a long time to find them. They are obviously not contained in the report on capital expenditures, for then he would be able to quote them. He could have sent another member to fetch the report in his office in less than two minutes and given the figures. If he is unable to give us this information tonight, it is because it is not contained in the report. Therefore, the minister should not tell me to take the time to read the reports; I have read them, but they do not contain the information and this is the reason why I am asking the minister to give me the answer.

I will now call it ten o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

[*English*]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, I will give the hon. member a copy in order that he may look at it.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, I realize that an hon. member has called it ten o'clock, but in order to expedite the business of the house and in view of the fact that probably this bill could be passed this evening if we are patient, we are prepared to sit beyond ten o'clock.

● (10.00 p.m.)

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, far from me the idea of delaying unduly the progress of our business but let us set aside consideration of clause 3 and take it up tomorrow.

The minister has just given me some loose sheets. It is not a report but photostatic sheets of which I did not get any copy and which have not been tabled.

I have received the reports of the C.N.R., the report on capital expenditures, but I did not get this one and I have not even looked it over yet. Therefore, if the minister agrees to postpone consideration of clause 3 until tomorrow, so that I may have a satisfactory answer, I will tell him that I have no objections to carry on with the consideration of the rest of the bill tonight if we could make some progress. It has never been my intention to delay unduly our business; on the