

*Business of the House*

Also it is interesting to note the commitment which was undertaken by the then president of the CNR when the 1952 recapitalization bill was passed. After the passage of the Capital Revision Act of 1952, the late Donald Gordon said the following:

Capital revision has taken away the curse of the past, but let us be frank enough to recognize that it has also taken away an alibi and convenient excuse. This is its real meaning for the future. We are now in a position where we have nothing to hide behind, and nothing to block the road to success. We have a fighting chance of paying our way in the world, and counting the bad years with the good we ought to be able on the average to pay all our operating expenses, our fixed interest charges and income taxes, and still have something left to return to our owners as a dividend on preferred stock.

That was a very lofty proclamation, but it did not come to pass. Given the obvious break which was acknowledged by the then president, and given the clear obligation which was placed upon the shoulders of CN management, it is very questionable whether parliament would have granted these extra funds on an annual basis for what is really tantamount to a bookkeeping entry. Also it is very difficult to arrive at an accurate evaluation of the assets acquired by CN prior to the turn of the century. Thus, the \$808 million figure is not based on anything concrete and is not a firm evaluation. It is subject to some questioning.

I take issue with the fact that the 1976 CN annual report makes the assumption, for all intents and purposes, that this bill would be passed, since it is noted that CN actually capitalized the \$808 million accumulated depreciation and charged it against assets. Obviously this action was sanctioned by CN's auditor and the government. Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock?

\* \* \*

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During the last week we have waited patiently to receive some advice from the Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) as to what will happen as far as private members' business and public bills are concerned. We have not received anything from the minister since last Wednesday. We do not know what bills are coming up. If we had not checked with the Table at 4.45 p.m. or 4.50 p.m. today, we would not have known what bill was going to be before the House this evening. I think the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council, or his parliamentary secretary, owes that courtesy to the opposition.

● (1702)

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly have been aware, as others have been, of what was going to occur. I am surprised that the hon. member was not.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, as a courtesy the President of Privy Council sends a list over to the opposition so that we know what is going to happen for the next week with regard to

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

private members' bills, but that courtesy was not extended to us this time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** I suggest that the hon. member raise his point of order at a later date when the government House leader is in the House.

---

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for St. John's West—Industry—Fluorspar mine at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland—Proposed pressure on Alcan to operate; the hon. member for Simcoe North—Health and welfare—Care of the elderly—Financial aid for those in institutions; the hon. member for Nickel Belt—Labour conditions—Proposed lay-offs at certain mines—Government action to avoid.

---

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills, and notices of motions.

Order No. 2; the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané). Shall the order stand by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order No. 4; the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald). Stand by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order No. 8; the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Goodale). Stand by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order No. 9; the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle). Stand by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.