

The CHAIRMAN: This, gentlemen, is Mr. W. G. McGregor, the Vice-Chairman of the National Legislative Committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. I understand, gentlemen, the other representatives of the labour unions all support Mr. McGregor's submission. Is that correct? In other words, is there anybody here from the railway unions who wishes to make separate representations from those that are going to be made by Mr. McGregor?

Senator ROEBUCK: Perhaps they could be called upon later. Let us hear Mr. McGregor and what he has to say first. There are quite a number of distinguished leaders of the unions here, and some of them would probably like to say a few words, but let us hear from Mr. McGregor first.

The CHAIRMAN: All others who wish to speak afterwards will be given ample opportunity to be heard, I can assure you of that, senator.

Mr. McGregor, would you be good enough to read your brief? Has the committee had the submission circulated to it?

Mr. W. G. McGregor, Vice-Chairman, National Legislative Committee, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, we are honoured to appear before the Senate Committee on Transport and Communications to speak on behalf of the railway workers employed by the C.N.R. and C.P.R. in the City of Ottawa and district. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce some of my colleagues.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I would like to state that the chairman of our National Legislative Committee of the International Railway Brotherhoods is ill, so I am speaking as Vice-Chairman of the National Legislative Committee of the International Railway Brotherhoods. However, we have present with us: Mr. Frank Hall, Executive Assistant, Brotherhood of Railway Workers; the Director of Research, Mr. Stuart Wells; and the Vice-President of the Machinists and various other organizations of the non-operating groups. I have left with the secretary a list of those who have signed in as being representatives of the other organizations present.

With your permission, is it your pleasure that I read our brief?

The CHAIRMAN: If you would, Mr. McGregor.

Mr. MCGREGOR: This, honourable senators, is a brief on the subject of Bill S-3, an act to incorporate the Ottawa Terminal Railway Company, submitted to the Senate Committee on Transport and Communications by railway unions representing the running trades and the non-operating employees.

We very much appreciate having been given the opportunity to speak to the Committee on Transportation and Communications on the subject matter of Bill S-3.

By way of introduction we should perhaps explain why we did not seek to appear when the predecessor to Bill S-3 was before this same committee last session. The fact of the matter is that, like the Honourable Senator Hugesen, we at that time held the belief that the bill was merely an enabling bill to incorporate the Ottawa Terminal Railway Company with certain powers, and that until it was incorporated and began operating, the unions had no special interest in the matter. It is only gradually that we have come to realize that this was not a sound assumption on our part. No doubt we should have come to this conclusion more quickly than we did, but we did not.

As you know, all railway services in the Ottawa area are presently provided by employees of either the Canadian National or Canadian Pacific Railways. For an organized employee this means that all wages, working conditions, seniority rights, health and welfare benefits, and supplementary unemployment benefits are as provided in the collective agreement between the employee's union and his company. Pensions are not established by collective