Canadian Centennial

precede my prepared effort which followed on April 20, and I should like to read now what I said then:

The urgent need of at least three small passenger and cargo boats is apparent when it is realized that the Canadian National Railways in Newfoundland not only do not have sufficient passenger boats to take care of present traffic, but they have no spare boat in reserve in case of accident or emergency. Should one of the present ships be lost, the whole coastal service would collapse. To make matters worse, one of the ships now in service is over 50 years old and is due to be retired;—

I may say that that ship is not yet retired. She has been taken out of the passenger service and is still being used to carry cargo.

Mr. Stick: It is time she was pensioned.

Mr. Carter: This was a brief warning that I issued about the famous William Carson:

We are all very pleased that a new ferry is being provided for the gulf service, but there is serious doubt of the wisdom of building at this time such a large ship as contemplated, requiring such extensive terminal facilities, harbour installations and improvements. Experienced captains and navigators have expressed serious doubts as to whether such a large ship can be safely manoeuvred during bad weather in the small space available in the terminal port.

This, Mr. Speaker, may be found at page 2236 of *Hansard* of April 20, 1951. Further along I said this:

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not want to limit unduly any member who wishes to speak on this resolution, and I can see that it is appropriate to refer to matters by way of example; but it seems to me the hon. member is devoting his entire address to one instance. There may be members in the house who want to speak more particularly to the resolution, which, if I may remind the hon. member, provides for consideration of a committee for the purpose of planning the economic and social development of this country on a vast scale. Therefore, while it is appropriate to give illustrations of improvements in transportation, I think the hon. member has gone to the limit on that subject and unless he wants to relate the matter to the committee, I must ask him to give way to members who may wish to speak on the resolution.

Mr. Carter: I want to relate my remarks to the resolution in one respect, Mr. Speaker. My constituents have been victimized for the past eight years and this resolution looks forward 10 years in the future. I am urging the Minister of Transport to take the matter up with the authorities of the Canadian National Railways so that the hardship and indignity of the past eight years will not be extended beyond 1967.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the principle, the

purpose and the spirit of this resolution which asks the government to give consideration to this committee with federal and provincial representatives on it, and to planning our development and so on, so that we shall have reached a certain target or objective on the 100th ampiversary of the inauguration of confederation. Before going further I must refer to the remarks of the hon. member for Hamilton West who opened the debate on the government side of the house.

An hon. Member: York West.

Mr. Herridge: I am mixing the name of the hon member with the constituency. It is so easy to get mixed up in that direction. I recall that the hon member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) said that he did not want just fireworks and things of that sort at the end of the 100 years; he wanted achievements. So far as the Progressive Conservative party contribution to this debate by the hon member for York West (Mr. Hamilton) is concerned, he did not start off with fireworks, he started off with a damp squib, and I must say that he entirely overlooked the spirit of the resolution.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre avoided any reference to political parties or how this objective would be achieved. He offered us a broad objective and a target. His remarks were couched in language to which people should respond in a spirit of unity, but the hon. gentleman saw fit to ridicule the resolution which I thought was a very shallow approach to a very serious matter.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre gave credit to the achievements of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the very well-known late J. S. Woodsworth. He treated them, I think, in a very statesmanlike way. Well, we can well understand government members talking this resolution out and not being willing to support it in full, but I would have expected from the government benches assurance of support in principle and speeches containing suggestions as to the difficulties of doing this or as to the need for amendment, and so on.

But I thought the speech of the hon. member for York West, in response to this appeal from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre was rather below his normal average. I heard the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Best) speak for the first time this afternoon. I congratulate him on his facility with language and the ease with which he spoke in the house at this time. I know it is not very easy but the gentlemen of the legal profession usually find it much easier than those who live in some cases in the back woods.