

(Translation)

Mr. CARON: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Mackasey is wrong there. In principle I recognize that there may be only French Canadians. As we have seen that is never the case in practice. In practice it has always failed and if we have not taken precautions ahead of time we find that we have been left out. We are looked upon as incompetent in Canada. Look how hard it is for the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National to recruit a few French Canadians. Look at Quebec Hydro. Since that has been taken over by the province of Quebec, Hydro Quebec have built the largest dam in the world with French-Canadian engineers and this proves that our men are competent. But in their opinion the French Canadians are not competent. That is what Mr. Gordon stated one day, that they were unable to find competent people to fill the vice presidency. A gas station operator was made vice president and chief of personnel. That is something that has never been taken into consideration, and that is why I consider a clause should be inserted immediately to protect French Canadians.

(Text)

Mr. FISHER: I would like to ask Mr. Caron how he would suggest this could be done in the statute.

Mr. CARON: Well, it could be done as it is generally done. Generally it is stated that out of the number given one, two or three will be French Canadian. That is the only thing we can do.

Mr. FISHER: Well, make the motion. Make the motion; I will support it.

Mr. REGAN: No, this is surely not so.

(Translation)

Mr. CANTIN: Mr. Chairman, I am against putting any such provision in the act. I think there are other ways to go about it and such steps have already been taken. We have seen it for a year or so, particularly on the part of the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific, there is a movement in the right direction.

Mr. CARON: Only in the past 6 months.

Mr. CANTIN: Then let us hope it will continue in the same direction and the politician is always able to make representations, either to this committee, when the railway representatives submit their balance sheet. I am absolutely opposed to incorporating in the act all kinds of provisions which, after all, merely indicate an inferiority complex, which I myself do not suffer from in the least.

Mr. CARON: We have to keep an inferiority complex. There is nothing else we can do, we have that complex; it has been created for us since Confederation. It is time there was a change and the fact that we are asking for things proves that we no longer have an inferiority complex. We are asking for things because we are entitled to receive things and I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that section 7 should read like this: "that the number of directors should not be less than 6 nor more than 10 but that at least two of those gentlemen should be French Canadians."

The CHAIRMAN: You mean French Canadians who speak French.

Mr. CARON: No, I am speaking of French Canadians.

(Text)

Mr. REGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have some difficulty in talking today but—

(Translation)

The CHAIRMAN: One moment please. Did you move it Mr. Caron?