

Legislation: Railway Act amendment

45. The Minister of Transport, referring to discussion at the meeting of October 3rd, 1951, submitted a reprint of the bill to amend the Railway Act to which had been added a section to provide for assumption by the federal government of financial responsibility for trackage maintenance for those portions of trans-continental railway lines lying between Sudbury and Fort William, Capreol and Fort William, and Cochrane and Armstrong.

46. The Prime Minister suggested that, at the resolution stage, the Minister of Transport might state that the measure represented merely the legal embodiment of recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Transportation in respect of the equalization of freight rates, that the bill along with amendments to the Maritime Freight Rates Act and the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act would be referred to committee for consideration and report, and that the government did not wish to commit itself to the bill prior to such reference so that all interested parties might be heard and any amendments to the bill which might be deemed desirable could be made prior to the measure being reported back to the House.

47. The Cabinet, after discussion:

(a) approved for introduction the bill to amend the Railway Act; and,

(b) agreed that the Minister of Transport announce in the House, at an early date, that the government did not wish to commit itself to all the details of the legislation prior to its being referred to committee for consideration and report.

N. A. Robertson,
Secretary to the Cabinet.

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