

*Railways and Shipping Committee*

raised by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) in relation to passes on Trans-Canada Air Lines and I address my remarks to this house as someone coming from the central part of our country and who, therefore, would not be affected by this matter. I would like to register my support for the members from distant parts of Canada.

I had great hopes of a solution to this problem, bearing in mind the comments of the minister. I had expected that when he came back to this house with a real majority he would be able to do something about the matter right away. Perhaps there is a hesitation on the part of the new government as a result of a too great majority in that it may be felt that since mainly Conservative members would be benefiting from such an arrangement this would arouse too much criticism. I know that this matter has been discussed in the Conservative caucus and for the first time since I came to Ottawa I tried to snoop a little bit on what went on in caucus with regard to this particular matter. I might say I was not very successful in discovering anything in this regard, and all I have noticed is the looks of chagrin on the faces of some western members, especially those from Vancouver. This has indicated to me that they are not making much progress on this point in the Conservative caucus.

As an Ontario member and as one who has been present in this house on Fridays and on Mondays I would like to say that I feel our western members and our members from the east are carrying the load, in a sense, in this House of Commons. Members from Ontario and Quebec are located within handy reach of their homes and are sometimes even able to carry on and develop two occupations, namely being members of parliament while they are also interested in some other line of endeavour. I know the press will probably take off to a certain extent and will say, if we go after this hon. members of parliament are grabbing another prerogative, but I think this is one prerogative we ought to go after, in the name of equity if for no other reason. In this way our western and eastern members will be on an equitable basis with other members in this house.

If it is going to be too expensive to set up an arrangement whereby members will receive passes as they do on railways, and this certainly seems to be logical, then some other intermediate measure as a compromise might be implemented. I certainly feel it is time for this matter to be brought before a committee and thoroughly explored.

Before sitting down I would like to say I am pleased that the minister was brave enough to stand up and admit that he is not completely consistent right down the

line. I believe that in our political life of past years we have treasured consistency a little too much and I would like to compliment the minister for having the courage to say that he has altered his approach in this respect.

**Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to concur in the remarks of the last two speakers. I think we should accept the proposal which I understand was made some time ago that space should be made available to members of parliament when no paying passengers require space.

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** I wish to thank hon. members who have spoken in this debate for the views they have put forward and to assure them that I have taken careful note of their suggestions, which will be taken seriously.

The hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) asked for some information regarding the progress which this government is making with the railways in reference to the railway to Pine Point. I am afraid I have no information for him because this matter is under very active study by the railways and by the government at the present time.

As soon as I have further information on the matter I will be very glad to give it to the house.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Is the minister not going to deal with the very important questions referred to by the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) with respect to lay-offs by T.C.A., etc? Surely, after the speech made by the hon. member one would expect the minister to give some elucidation to the house.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I tried to deal with the questions relating to T.C.A. two or three times while the hon. member for Laurier was speaking, and I do not think they require to be dealt with further at this time.

**Mr. Chevrier:** The minister did not deal very effectively with them.

**Mr. Hees:** Perhaps I did not deal with them effectively.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Or at all.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Silence is golden.

Motion agreed to.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

## REFERENCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS, BUDGETS AND CERTAIN ESTIMATES TO RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING COMMITTEE

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport)** moved:

That the annual reports from 1957 of the Canadian National Railways; Canadian National (West Indies)