

Supply—Legislation

Even in that case I would only have covered half of my riding, and I would have covered about 5,000 miles at a cost, as I have said, of between 55 and 75 cents a mile.

Someone may say: why don't you go by boat? I tried that in 1955 or 1956. I tried going by canoe. I started out at Hay River, thinking I would cut down my expenses and be able to serve my people properly. I left Hay River in a canoe, went to Fort Providence, Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson. There was a problem at Jean Marie River so I went back there, and then on to Fort Simpson, Fort Wrigley and Norman Wells.

This was in August. It rained for nine days. I do not think any hon. member in this house would expect me, or the hon. member for Athabasca or the hon. members for Meadow Lake and Peace River to sit in an open canoe when it is raining every day. Every once in a while you decide you had better dry out, so you pull into shore, build a fire and get about half dried out, and then you say: "to hell with it; back in the canoe." And then you move along the river again. One hon. member mentioned rain—

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): You are all wet.

Mr. Hardie: I was just going to say to the Postmaster General that even in those nine days of rain from Hay River to Norman Wells I never saw so many crocodile tears as I have seen in this house—the whining and crying of the government every time—

The Deputy Chairman: I wish the hon. member would stay with the question of travelling expenses.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, I have been endeavouring to stick to the question of travelling expenses but since the Postmaster General, who drives around in his constituency in a car—

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I walk.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thought the Postmaster General used the street cars.

Mr. Hardie:—interjected I thought I should comment on it. I shall proceed from there. On August 12 that same year it snowed.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I must ask the hon. member to stick to travelling. We are not discussing weather. I request the hon. member to confine his remarks to the problems of travelling without discussing weather.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order you have raised surely it has always been recognized that weather is ancillary to travel.

[Mr. Hardie.]

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to bring that point up. Let us ask the hon. member for Meadow Lake about this. If he travels by air from Meadow Lake to Uranium City in August or September to perform the duties expected of him by his constituents and because of rain or snow he is required to stay in Uranium City for, let us say, five days, does he get that free? I should say not. He pays a waiting charge. He must pay waiting time on that aircraft. If the aircraft company says it cannot fly from one point to another, perhaps a distance of 20 miles, he gets it free but if he engages an aircraft to take him from one point to another and on reaching his destination he is delayed, he must take his chances on that and pay waiting time.

In any event hon. members from northern constituencies are handicapped in serving the people they represent because they have to travel by air. A private hon. member told me that the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Minister of Transport were going to make a tour of my riding. I must say I have not been asked by these hon. gentlemen to take them around my riding nor was I offered a free ride in their aircraft. I am sure I could take the Minister of Transport on an interesting tour of the country. I could introduce him to the people in my riding who have problems and who would very much like to speak to him and his colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I will not prolong this debate any further—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hardie: "Hear, hear", they say, all these fellows—

Mr. McFarlane: Hon. members.

Mr. Hardie: Well, all these hon. members who when they go home whether it is on June 1 or March 21 or March 31 simply fill up the gas tanks of their cars and cover their ridings; "Hear, hear" they say, but what do they say about the hon. member for Churchill, the hon. member for Peace River, the hon. member for Athabasca and other hon. members when they discuss this problem in caucus? I wonder what goes on in the caucus of the Tory party? I wonder if the hon. members for Churchill, Peace River and Athabasca—and I almost forgot the most important one, the hon. member for the Yukon.

Mr. Nielsen: Leave me out of this. I get around quite well.

Mr. Hardie: I am glad the hon. member mentioned that because the Liberal government built all the roads he is driving on when he is in his constituency.