

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable gentleman knows the reason, does he not?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: No.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Because the South African Government will not permit freight to be carried on a truck more than twelve miles outside a city, even on a truck owned by the man who owns the freight.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: If in this country we had the courage to charge the rates that prevail in the United States, in South Africa, or Australia, our railroad problem would be solved. I heard Sir Henry Thornton say many times, "Give me the rates that prevail in the United States and I will give you a surplus every year."

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Honourable members, do not be alarmed about the possible length of my speech. I move the adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Until to-morrow?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would not say to-morrow. As we are approaching the end of the session, we might find it convenient to resume the debate later to-day.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I do not think it is necessary to specify when the debate will be resumed.

On motion of Right Hon. Mr. Graham, the debate was adjourned.

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM presented the report of the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours, on Bill 74, an Act to establish a corporation to be known as Trans-Canada Air Lines, and moved concurrence therein.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: With leave, I move third reading of the Bill now.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 41, an Act to amend and consolidate the Combines Investigation Act and amending Act.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: With leave of the Senate, I move second reading of this Bill now, so that it may be sent on to the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: All right.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Should I give a short explanation of the Bill?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think so.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We are living in troublous times when many people are agitated over economic problems bearing on their welfare, and there is unrest throughout the land. The relations between capital and labour are in the limelight. Those who have not suspect they are being exploited by those who have. We have heard complaints, even in this Chamber, that we have too many inquiries in progress—too many royal commissions going up and down the country. Measured by immediate results, they may at times appear useless, but they serve a useful purpose in allaying suspicion and fear. On all sides one hears denunciations of trusts and mergers. I have on other occasions stated in this Chamber that the system of capitalism can continue only so long as it is fair and just to the masses—the consumers. I believe the Senate of Canada must face that position and support any measure to deal with grievances which may arise in the development and application of the system.

This Bill is designed to effect several much-needed changes in the Combines Investigation Act, with the object of making that legislation a more efficient instrument for safeguarding the public interest against detrimental combinations and monopolies. For some years the Combines Investigation Act has not been utilized to the full extent of its appropriate functions. In some degree this has been due to certain provisions in the legislation itself. Even before the amendments of 1935, it was the view of those who had its administration in charge that the Act stood in need of improvement. Some of the amendments made in 1935 had the effect of weakening rather than strengthening the Act. Those amendments tended rather to restrict its scope or to add to the difficulties of its enforcement. It will be recalled that during last session the Government sought to remove one of the outstanding disabilities, but the proposed amendment was rejected by the Senate.