

ask that the bell be rung. I have grave doubt that the bill will be available between now and 4 o'clock. There are still two contentious clauses to be dealt with, according to my information, and then there has to be a third reading upon which there could be debate as well. If the Senate agrees to the suggestion, the bell will ring before six o'clock, and we will know then what is the situation.

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 5.45 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Honourable senators, we adjourned until 5.30 not by good management but rather by luck, for precisely at 5.30 the bill passed in the other place.

I promised the Senate we would have the amendments in some clear form. While they are not extensive, it will take a little time to accomplish this. I suggest therefore, if it is agreeable to the Senate, that we adjourn now to reassemble at the call of the bell at 7 p.m. This will give senators an opportunity to have dinner and, of necessity, it will provide an opportunity to have the amendments put into fair form so that they may be readily understood.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 7 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

MAINTENANCE OF RAILWAY OPERATION BILL, 1966

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-230, to provide for the resumption of operations of railways and for the settlement of the existing dispute with respect to terms and conditions of employment between Railway Companies and their employees.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. John J. Connolly, with leave of the Senate, moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, my first duty is to thank you all for the wonderful co-operation that you have given not to me personally but to the Senate, and indeed to Parliament, during this week. We have had some measures which perhaps we could have disposed of much more quickly than we did, but I want to express my deep personal appreciation to all honourable senators who have interrupted their time with their families at their homes to come here in this emergency.

You have come here out of a sense of duty and in great numbers, and I want all honourable senators to know how deeply I appreciate this. I am sure you appreciate the fact that your readiness and willingness to come here for this purpose has enhanced the position and the prestige of the Senate.

The bill before us this evening provides basically for resumption of railway services in this country, services which were disrupted by a strike that has paralyzed the railway industry now since Friday noon of last week. The bill also provides for a certain increase in wage rates to be paid to the workers. It establishes procedures whereby all other issues between the railway companies and the trade unions representing the workers can be settled; and I hope that all honourable senators will come to the conclusion that it provides a base for a just and fair settlement, considering the national emergency and the requirements of the times.

I should point out that involved in the dispute which led to the strike are the 13 companies described in Schedule A. The main companies are the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railways. The other companies are all rather familiar to senators; some of them are jointly operated, some are jointly owned by various groups; some are independent. In any event, all are listed in Schedule A.

The other party to the dispute comprises the 19 unions listed in Schedules B and C. These unions represent over 100,000 non-operating employees of the railways and over 15,000 operating employees. The contracts between the unions and the railways expired on December 31, 1965. They were two-year contracts. The issues arising out of renegotiation of those contracts can be described generally as follows: wage increases, shift differentials, sick leave provisions, worker benefit plans,