

*Committee on Railways and Shipping*

been laid upon the table of the house. As I indicated, the report to which I made reference has been tabled in the house. It so happens I am not a member of the committee but the point I wish to make is that in my view even before this matter is referred to the committee there is something that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler) should do in relation to the crash to which I referred, and I point out again that that crash is covered in the report that is on the table of the house.

I do not ask any concession. I do not ask that I be allowed to deal with this matter on sufferance. I claim with respect that it is in order, just as much in order as it was on the motion regarding the radio committee for hon. members to discuss radio and television policy from A to Z. I feel I should be allowed to proceed with this matter and to make my appeal to the minister, before this motion passes, to set up a public board of inquiry with respect to the crash at Brampton.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has another opportunity of putting forward that request when the estimates of the Department of Transport will soon be studied. I think that is the time to direct that request to the minister. It is not the responsibility of any of the corporations whose annual balance sheets will be examined by the committee to set up that particular board referred to by the hon. member. It is the responsibility of the minister as Minister of Transport.

As I say, I do not wish to limit the latitude the hon. members may wish to have when we are setting up a committee. There may be general agreement with respect to setting up the committee but if hon. members on a motion to appoint and institute the committee are going to tell the house what they wish to see done by the committee, I think we are putting the cart before the horse.

I do not want to go any further because I do not know if there was some agreement prior to the moving of this motion that there would be some kind of general debate. That was the case with the C.B.C. committee, I think. As far as I can recollect, any time the motion to create the C.B.C. committee was moved there was always a debate on policy and a general debate on C.B.C. operations, but that was not the situation in relation to other committees.

I remember having to stop the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) on a motion concerning amendments to the elections act. I asked him to wait until the committee was set up and to put forward the suggestions before that committee and not to tell us the

[Mr. Knowles.]

amendments he would like to see enacted by that committee before the committee was instituted.

That is the extent of the remarks I wish to make at this moment. I would like to leave it in the hands of hon. members and ask them to be reasonable so as not to extend too much the latitude which is allowed on these motions.

**Mr. Thomas:** On that point, Mr. Speaker, may I ask if concurrence will be asked when the report is brought in after the committee stops sitting? If so, that would give us an opportunity to fully debate the policy of the railway committee. If no concurrence is sought we will have no opportunity of debating it after the committee has finished its work. I suggest we should be allowed to debate it either now or after the committee has stopped.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member, I believe, is thinking of a bill which is presented annually to appoint the auditors for the Canadian National Railways or the first item of the Department of Transport in the committee of supply. It is upon these occasions that policies are discussed as well as operations and various activities which come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Transport.

As I said, I do not intend to insist upon the latitude being curtailed any more than hon. members would wish to see it curtailed at this point. I think I have done my duty in pointing out that when we are setting up a committee it does not mean we should debate all the things hon. members would like to see the committee deal with on the motion to appoint the committee.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I do not offer this as an argument or as a defence, but I think perhaps I might point out that I indicated to the leader of the house on Saturday afternoon—and there is one member in the house who was present on that occasion—that it was my intention to raise this matter on this motion this afternoon, and no objection was taken. Earlier I had thought perhaps I would do it as a grievance upon a supply motion, if one ever reached that stage. However, it seems to me that the very fact that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler) at this moment is moving that the affairs of Trans-Canada Air Lines be referred to a special committee gives me the right to ask him, before he asks that his motion pass, to take further action with respect to this matter to which I have drawn attention.

As I was about to point out, a few days after the crash last December the minister