

Senate support, would be pleased to undertake the kind of initiative discussed this evening. I am sure that the committee would receive substantial support from honourable senators.

Senator Riley: I have another question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Again, I am not trying to be antagonistic. Would he suggest to the Minister of Transport, with the consent and at the joint request of Senator Smith, that he ask Dr. Bandeen. We are not talking about western Canada; we are talking about the Atlantic provinces. As far as western Canada being concerned over the CPR, very well and good, but we must remember that the CPR does not provide the Atlantic provinces, except for small sections, with an express service. I do know that the other private trucking concerns are not anxious to haul express parcels, and the courier services are eating into the business of CN Express only because they give better service.

If I were to send a fish packed in ice from Saint John to Ottawa by CN Express, it would have to lie in a warehouse overnight, whereas a courier service at a much higher cost would bring it here much more quickly.

Senator Marshall: It would be very smelly.

Senator Riley: Not if it got here overnight. Once, when I was in the House of Commons, I insisted that they amend an amendment to the Criminal Code. I wanted to correct the spelling of the corporate name of my city to S-a-i-n-t, Saint John, and Art Smith from Calgary said, "A fish by any other name would smell as bad."

● (2100)

In any event, this is a matter of serious concern to the people of the Atlantic provinces and I would ask again, with consent, that Dr. Bandeen and his officials be brought before our committee. We must not forget that Senator Smith is serving on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution, so it is hard to say how much time he will have between now and Christmas to become engaged in this sort of enterprise of bringing the CNR officials before a committee. I think it would be appropriate, and diplomatic, if the Leader of the Government in the Senate were to approach the Minister of Transport and ask him either to check with Dr. Bandeen and his officials or simply bring them before the committee.

Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board): Honourable senators, I wish to agree with the statement of my leader that it would be appropriate for the Chairman of the Transport and Communications Committee to invite Dr. Bandeen to appear before the committee to give evidence on this important question. I cannot agree with Senator Riley that we should approach the Minister of Transport to see if he would help bring Dr. Bandeen here.

Senator Riley: Just on a diplomatic basis.

Senator Argue: The Senate is the master of its own procedure, and the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications is perfectly capable, through its able Chairman, of sending a letter to Dr. Bandeen inviting him to appear. I am sure that Dr. Bandeen, being a reasonable person, would

come and give important evidence before that committee, answering some of the questions that have been raised. These are important questions, and I can understand the concern of senators who have raised them. I believe the Deputy Leader of the Opposition could play a constructive role tonight by just saying he would be prepared to send these requests on to a member of his caucus, namely, the distinguished Chairman of the Transport and Communications Committee.

It has been said that this is an Atlantic matter and is not a western matter. Well, the same kind of problem has been raised in western Canada from time to time. In North Battleford, Saskatchewan, the CN Express service was removed a short time ago. The people in that area have exactly the same concerns as the people in the Atlantic area.

When Dr. Bandeen comes—and I am certain he will come, if he is invited, and I believe he will be invited—the concerns about the express services in the Atlantic provinces should be raised, as should the particular concern that I have suggested. Indeed, I will play my part in seeing that it also is raised at that time, because I feel it is part of the function of the Senate to look into these important questions.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I have to tell my honourable friend that I have not the slightest intention of making any such request, as he has suggested I should, of the distinguished Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications. If that is his idea of how the Senate works—

Senator Argue: Just pass on the questions.

Senator Roblin: For a man who has been around here as long as he has, it astonishes me. I would no more think of doing that than I would think of telling the distinguished Chairman of the National Finance Committee how to run his committee. I have seen him in operation, and he runs an excellent committee. So does my honourable friend Senator Smith. I am quite content to rely on Senator Smith to initiate his own course of action without any gratuitous or unsolicited advice from me.

But if that committee, by any chance, should meet to discuss these interesting questions, I would suggest to Senator Smith that he request, urge or subpoena, if necessary, the Honourable Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board, because I am still waiting to hear what the meaning was of his statement delivered in western Canada a few days ago about having an investigation of the Canadian Pacific Railway before he proceeds with the consideration of the Crownsnest rates. That committee might provide a good opportunity for my honourable friend to expound upon the policy of the government in this connection so that the matter can be clarified for the interest of all concerned.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sydney L. Buckwold: Honourable senators, I wish to raise a point of order. I know how tolerant we are in our Question Period, but, obviously, this matter has now turned into a debate.

Senator Argue: There is nothing much wrong with that.