

cabinet should set aside the findings of the board of transport commissioners in this matter.

The amendment of the C.C.F., proposing non-confidence in the government, was obviously conceived in great haste and I think it is being repented at leisure. I am sure it must have been a most difficult decision for the C.C.F. party to make. Here they are trying to serve two masters, as it were—

Mr. MacINNIS: Aren't you doing the same thing?

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): —the farmers on the prairies and the workers on the railways.

Mr. MacINNIS: Which group are you supporting?

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I have great interest in the welfare of both groups—

Mr. MacINNIS: So have we.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): —but there are hon. gentlemen of the cloth on the other side—my hon. friends have a number of them—and these hon. gentlemen should have told them that one of the oldest precepts in human relationships is that a man cannot serve two masters. I do not know whether they consider in this case it is two servants instead of two masters. That is quite possible. It must have been a difficult decision for them to make among themselves, as to which one they would repudiate, because, after all, some of them come from rural ridings, while a great number of them come from urban centres.

Mr. MacINNIS: Would not the Liberal party, which my hon. friend supports, be in the same predicament?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Let him make his speech.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): The farmers of Saskatchewan, where they have a trial C.C.F. government, would be very much concerned by the attitude of my hon. friend.

Mr. KNOWLES: What kind of government do you feel Saskatchewan should have?

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Saskatchewan may feel justified in taking a chance on an experiment, but I would not take that chance myself. Out there the people are used to the vagaries of the weather, and one bad government out there might not be very much worse than a bad hailstorm.

Mr. BRYCE: You are sitting on the fence. You have not the courage to take either side.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must remind hon. members that the question before the house at the moment is freight rates and not the governments of the provinces.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can just imagine the C.C.F. sitting around the caucus room up there wondering what the decision should be, like Belshazzar when he saw the writing on the wall.

Mr. MacINNIS: How did he feel?

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): In this particular case there was no writing on the wall. Probably it was the long shadow of the pick handle, to use a phrase I often hear from my genial friend the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Archibald). They must have wondered if they had not better be careful, lest they should have to go back to the outside life, being no longer members of parliament after another election.

Mrs. STRUM: Speak for yourself.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I am sure \$6,000 a year is much more difficult to earn in outside occupations out there where you have to use both your head and your hands. I do not expect the C.C.F. to be practical and to give heed to practical suggestions, but I think the Progressive Conservatives over there are sound, hard-headed businessmen and one can appeal to them. They are more interested in results than they are in any transitory political coup that might come from the sub-amendment they have moved. I am sure the Progressive Conservative subamendment has been motivated by a desire to do a service to the people of Canada, and on this assumption I would make a proposal to them. The government has promised to make a full investigation into these freight rates differentials in Canada. Do they not think that by some happy chance, about a year from now, probably before a general election, the board of transport commissioners might bring down a favourable finding in regard to these freight rates? I think it would be a wonderful time to do so.

I myself am not interested in the political factors.

An hon. MEMBER: Just in the election.

Mr. MacINNIS: You will be all right whichever side wins.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): I am interested in an equalization of freight rates in Canada. I know my hon. friend is not interested in anything but the political angle, but I say to him, "Don't assume that every