

Mr. FULTON: With another deficit before us, I suppose? You mean in another year's time?

The CHAIRMAN: I mean in another year. No one is being injured because the shareholders are identical in both these government institutions.

Mr. DREW: That is exactly why they should have the opportunity to examine it.

Mr. POULIOT: Would you have any objection to bringing to the attention of the Postmaster-General the discussion which has taken place tonight?

The CHAIRMAN: I would very much prefer the minister to do it rather than the chairman of the committee.

Mr. MUTCH: Have you any doubt about that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have no doubt about that.

Mr. FRASER: Do you not think since both T.C.A. and the Post Office, as you say, have the same shareholders, that is the reason why negotiations have not been hurried up? One side does not want to hurry them, and the other side evidently does not feel that they have to hurry because, if they do have a deficit, they know that the taxpayer will pay it?

Mr. FULTON: I cannot agree with that. I think the position is this: the Minister of Finance told us the other day in the House, as I recall it, in his budget speech, that the Post Office is now producing an over-all revenue or is in a surplus position on ordinary operations.

Right Hon. Mr. HOWE: The surplus goes into the treasury of Canada and the deficit of T.C.A. comes out of the treasury of Canada.

Mr. FULTON: But there is a slight difference because, as the Minister of Finance told us in his budget speech, one of the facts which he had to bear in mind, and which he is bearing in mind in making his over-all forecast of revenues and expenditures, is—and I think he used these words—the possibility that we may have to meet a deficit on the Canadian National and on the Trans-Canada Air Lines, something which very evidently entered into his forecast of revenues and expenditures. He thought that we should allow leeway for revenues over expenditures, bearing in mind that we may be called upon to meet these deficits, or meet the deficit position of the great government-owned corporations, the Canadian National Railways and Trans-Canada Air Lines, which must be borne in mind and which enter into the picture. I do not want to use inaccurate words, but if it is a false picture we are getting with respect to the operations of T.C.A.—if parliament is being asked to vote money for a deficit which in fact does not exist—I submit it distorts the whole over-all fiscal picture in so far as revenues are concerned.

Right Hon. Mr. HOWE: In figuring his revenue the Minister of Finance figures the revenue from the Post Office Department. It would not change the picture if the revenue from the Post Office Department was less and the deficit of T.C.A. was less to the same extent.

Mr. FULTON: That might enable us to arrive at some idea of whether this all-up mail is a sound proposition. I do not see that T.C.A. ought to be required to carry on and increase its deficit by carrying all-up mail?

Right Hon. Mr. HOWE: I feel very strongly on this point and I do not think that it should either. However, the clerk has ruled that we have not the authority to summon the Postmaster General—

Mr. DREW: With respect, the clerk cannot do that at all; he has no right—

Right Hon. Mr. HOWE: He gave a legal opinion.