

THE SENATE

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Friday, May 6, 1966.

The Standing Committee on Transport and Communications to which was referred Bill C-165, respecting the construction of a line of railway in the Province of Ontario by Canadian National Railway Company from the vicinity of Amesdale on the Redditt Subdivision of the Canadian National Railway in a north northwesterly direction for a distance of approximately 68 miles to a point in the vicinity of Bruce Lake, in the District of Kenora, met this day at 11 a.m. to give consideration to the bill.

Senator A. K. HUGESSEN in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable senators, it is now 11 o'clock and time for the convening of this meeting. The Senate has referred to us Bill C-165, an act respecting the construction of a line of railway by Canadian National Railway Company in the north northwesterly part of the Province of Ontario.

As this is a public bill of considerable importance, I would appreciate the usual motion that we be allowed to report the proceedings of the committee and that authority be granted for printing.

The committee agreed that a verbatim report be made of the committee's proceedings on the bill.

The committee agreed to report recommending authority be granted for the printing of 800 copies in English and 300 copies in French of the committee's proceedings on the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: This bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Benidickson, who is present this morning. Have you anything you wish to add before we proceed, senator?

Senator BENIDICKSON: No, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have representatives here.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have the names before me.

Senator BENIDICKSON: I think they will be more competent than I to speak on the subject.

The question was raised in the Senate the other day about the probable profit or net return that might come from this investment. This does involve, as everybody can appreciate, something in the nature of a competitive relationship with industry. The Government was given, by the Canadian National Railway, overall assurance that the enterprise should be profitable for it. However, it is perhaps not wise to present all the contractual detail to the public at large in order to protect this government company in a competitive position. There is no member of Parliament who cannot get this information or even ask a question about it here. My only point is that it might not be wise to put the financial detail on public record.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, senator.