

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 20, 1969

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

AIRPORT GROUND TRANSPORTATION—
REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, let me try a motion again in respect of airport ground transportation. If the House gives unanimous consent I should like to recommend the following order:

That the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications be directed to examine the subject matter of ground transportation at airports in Canada,

And that during its consideration of the aforementioned matter the committee be empowered to meet in Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, in view of the changes that have been made the motion is more acceptable to us. One hon. member of this party wishes to make a comment. I recognize that this is out of order but—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think comments should be made or that a debate should take place until there is either unanimous consent or some other disposition.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We do not want to withhold unanimous consent to this motion because we realize it is important. At the same time, I want to point out to Your Honour and the House that the committee has already been given a reference but has not yet had the opportunity of considering it. This reference was put forward by the Acting House Leader on November 3.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that this is a matter of debate which might be considered when the motion is put to the House. There is a very simple matter to be considered now, whether or not there is unanimous consent. If there is no

unanimous consent, the motion will not be put. If there is, I will put the motion and then the hon. member for St. John's East and all other members of the House, if they wish, can take part in the debate and present arguments such as those the hon. member is now trying to make by way of a point of order, which is entirely irregular. Is there unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications be directed to examine the subject matter of ground transportation at airports in Canada,

And that during its consideration of the aforementioned matter the committee be empowered to meet in Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I merely wanted to ask, at the time the Government House Leader was seeking unanimous consent, for an assurance before I gave consent. I wanted him to agree that the committee would in fact take under consideration the reference it now has as set out in *Hansard* for November 3 at page 398.

This reference has to do with a study by the committee of the subject matters referred to it at the last session in relation to the Great Slave Lake Railway line and transportation problems in the Atlantic provinces. It also is to consider the evidence presented to the committee last session. Let me point out to the House that the committee has not yet considered this reference. I should like to extract from the Government House Leader an assurance that before the committee considers the new reference it will give priority to the reference now before it as set out on page 398 of *Hansard*.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I should not like to follow the hon. member's suggestion that I should give instructions to any committee. I am sure his remarks have reached the ears of the members of the subcommittee on procedure and organization of