

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

encourage those who have deserved it and have the necessary qualifications to do an honest job.

In Quebec City, in the Canadian National offices, there is a swarm of employees whose work overlaps that of their counterparts in Montreal. Those employees go about in the parishes promising changes in the administration, the efficiency of which has not been proved. Through veiled threats against local authorities, those employees are trying to force municipal councils to accept changes the people do not want.

It seems those gentlemen could not care less. To my mind, it would be better for the railways, the Canadian National as well as the Canadian Pacific, to get rid of those gentlemen who go about hypocritically. I am told that in Quebec there are ten employees, if not more, who make \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually; this amount could be used to pay at least 10 or 15 station masters who would serve the population directly.

It may be that some of these officials will try to convince me that certain jobs are no longer needed in view of the progress in electronics. As some of the retired employees of the Canadian National receive less per month than people on social welfare, we are opposed to the lay-offs proposed by this company.

In view of the fact that the pension fund has accumulated something like \$1.5 billion and that 2,500 C.N. pensioners get only \$25 a month, 7,325, \$100 a month, and over 8,000 less than \$200 a month, adjustments are obviously needed.

I therefore echo, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations at one of the locals of the Transportation Employees Union, and I quote:

1. That a full inquiry be requested on the financial situation of the Canadian National pension plan.

2. That the C.N. pension plan become negotiable and integrated in the labour agreement.

3. That the C.N. pension committee be composed of an equal number of representatives of the company and the unions, plus a retired member of the union and a chairman chosen by the members already mentioned.

4. That the pension be computed as in the Civil Service of Canada, at the rate of 2 per cent per year of eligible employment, on the basis of the five best paid consecutive years, and that such pension be paid independently of the Canada or Quebec pension plans.

5. That the allowance paid to widows and legal heirs of retired personnel be 75 per cent instead of 50 per cent.

6. That a cost of living bonus be paid to retired personnel in order to adjust their pension to the present cost of living and that later on this level be prorated to the cost of living for all retired personnel.

7. That an employee may retire at 60 years of age with his employment years computed as if he had retired at 65.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the minister will get the full impact of these recommendations which are simply intended to ensure the security and welfare of a class of workers who have paid for it for a long time, and who are not responsible for the increase in the cost of living.

[*English*]

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister, and again in the unavoidable absence of his Parliamentary Secretary, I should like to reply to the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin). I must first of all say that he has raised questions this evening that are broader and more general, and in some cases more specific, than the question that was raised in *Hansard* for March 11, at page 4672. With respect to these questions, I will certainly draw them to the attention of the minister and trust that he will be making a reply to the hon. member.

• (10:10 p.m.)

What I am authorized to say with respect to the question that was raised in *Hansard* in regard to the closing down of certain railway stations is that this issue concerns a proposal by the CNR to implement a master agency plan in the area of Quebec City. In order to facilitate this, and to ensure public understanding, a railway representative is visiting local authorities in the municipalities in order to provide a full explanation of their plans and seek the co-operation of all interested parties. The railway is also informing its customers in this area. I am told no threats have been made by any officer of the railway. That is in direct reference to a question in *Hansard*.

Mr. J. A. Gauthier is the manager of the railways head office in Quebec City. He has endeavoured to arrange a meeting with the hon. member for Portneuf and the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) to explain to them the company's proposal. I understand that this will be done as soon as possible.