

Senator Olson: The appeal board might have recommended payment in a number of cases, and that number might be 3,000. I have already given an undertaking to get the numbers involved. However, I think, to be more precise, it meant that there should be some amendment made to the regulation so that payment could be made.

● (1415)

TRANSPORT

DART CONTAINER LINE—ACQUISITION OF INTEREST BY CANADIAN PACIFIC

Hon. Richard A. Donahoe: Honourable senators, I should like to address a question to the Leader of the Government with respect to events he may not be aware of taking place in Nova Scotia that have serious implications both for the province and the Port of Halifax. I am referring to the acquisition by Canadian Pacific of a one-third interest in the United States shipping company, Dart Container Line.

The result of that move might well be that Dart Container Line, which has been a mainstay of the transportation business in Halifax, will transfer its operations to the St. Lawrence and to Montreal. Obviously, Nova Scotians are greatly concerned about this, and the Canadian Transport Commission has been holding an inquiry into the matter with a view to determining the propriety of what is taking place.

My question relates to that hearing because, in the course of that hearing, on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia there was subpoenaed to appear before the Canadian Transport Commission a gentleman by the name of Mr. Bandeen. You will all be familiar with that name and the official position he occupies. My question stems from the fact that Mr. Bandeen has refused point blank to respect the subpoena; he has refused to appear before the commission; he has refused to give evidence before the commission relating to the transaction, and has, in effect, thumbed his nose at the Province of Nova Scotia and the commission as well.

One might understand that, but the reason advanced as to why he did not appear was that the subpoena had no legal effect on Mr. Bandeen, having been issued in Nova Scotia and served on him in another jurisdiction, and that, therefore, he could, based on that legalistic excuse, ignore the hearing.

Does the government, which the honourable leader represents in this house, approve of that kind of conduct on the part of the leader of a crown corporation which holds itself out as serving the interests of all of the people of Canada and not only the people of one region?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the honourable senator mentioned at the outset of his questioning that Canadian Pacific had acquired partial ownership in the Dart company; he then mentioned Mr. Bandeen's name. Of course, Mr. Bandeen is President of the CNR, and I am unclear whether both the CNR and the CPR were involved in a CTC hearing. The honourable senator may wish to clarify that part of his remarks. However, may I say

[Senator Nurgitz.]

that the honourable senator appears to be seeking a legal opinion and that—

Senator Donahoe: No, no, not a legal opinion; merely an attitudinal opinion. What is the attitude of the government?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): You are supposed to ask for facts, not opinions or attitudes.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, there seems to be a hypothetical question raised here. I will, however, take the question as notice.

Senator Donahoe: It is not hypothetical about Mr. Bandeen's refusal.

Senator Perrault: I should like to take the question as notice. I am not in possession of a copy of any letters allegedly sent by Mr. Bandeen to the CTC. I am not in possession of the records of the hearings held before the CTC. Under the circumstances, it would be most unfair, for the Leader of the Government in the Senate, or, indeed, any senator to offer opinions on such a matter.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government): Unless they want to appear before the CTC.

Senator Perrault: But, honourable senators, an inquiry will go forward to the office of the Minister of Transport to obtain any information that may be available.

● (1420)

Senator Donahoe: Honourable senators, by way of a supplementary and in reply to the question, I should like to outline CN's position in this matter. CNR is a shareholder in some of these operations which are about to be transferred up the St. Lawrence, and there is no question about it. I did not include this fact in my opening remarks because I felt that someone would take exception and say that the nature of the question was argumentative or that I was entering into debate. I do not wish to enter into debate. I merely wish to know whether such conduct on the part of a head of a crown corporation meets with the approval of the government.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, is it fair for the honourable senator to parade before the Senate a number of allegations concerning a distinguished public servant of good reputation, and then to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate whether he approves of some alleged misconduct or lack of responsiveness on the part of that person? I do not have available to me a transcript of any of the remarks allegedly made by the public servant or any copies of the correspondence. In light of the honourable senator's record as a minister in a provincial government, I appeal to his sense of fair play. Surely the honourable senator does not expect a response from this side, at this time, on such a matter.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): To whom is he responsible, if not to you?

SASKATCHEWAN—REGINA AIRPORT EXPANSION

Hon. R. James Balfour: Honourable senators, I direct my question to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Will