

Mr. GORDON: You will notice on the page in front there are 2,472 items of freight cars in this budget, which were authorized in prior years.

The new requests included this year cover 200 flat cars for Canadian lines, 100 flat cars for the Grand Trunk Western, 500 gondolas, 900 hoppers, 125 auto transporters, 100 covered hoppers, 100 special pulp wood cars and 455 enterprise hoppers, making a grand total of 2,480 units. We have no box cars on order or intended to be ordered this year.

Mr. BOURBONNAIS: No box cars whatsoever?

Mr. GORDON: We have a surplus of box cars in relation to present-day traffic volume and anticipated volume over the next year.

Mr. BOURBONNAIS: That means the car builders will be out of work for a good period of time?

Mr. GORDON: No. There are orders for other types of freight equipment which they are working on now and which have not been delivered yet. They are working on past orders because you will see in the item there are 2,472 freight cars, to be delivered, which I have touched on, and 225 cars in process of delivery, and on 2,255 to be ordered for delivery in 1959. You are quite right in this sense, that our orders or anticipated orders for the car building companies will not be as large as in the past.

Mr. BOURBONNAIS: How about the Budd car program, is the Canadian National Railways interested in buying them?

Mr. GORDON: Yes, I mentioned that yesterday and in this budget we have a requested authority for 20 self-propelled R.D.C.'s, that is the Budd cars, and we expect 15 to be delivered in this current year.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions on equipment?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Would I be impertinent if I asked the position of box cars vis-a-vis the United States and Canada? How many box cars are in the United States and how many here?

Mr. GORDON: I think I have that with me.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Can we get it later?

Mr. GORDON: I have it right here. I have got it for December 1957.

Mr. CHEVRIER: It seems to me it is a quarterly report.

Mr. GORDON: I have got the figures as related to our annual report, but I should have more up-to-date figures.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Could we have it as of December?

Mr. GORDON: Yes, as of December Canadian National Railways cars in the United States were 8,602 boxes, and at that time the United States box cars on Canadian lines totalled 3,254. Do you want me to name all the different classifications?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Oh, no.

Mr. GORDON: The grand total, I think would be of some interest to you. As of December 31 Canadian National Railways cars in the United States of all kinds totalled 10,598, and United States cars operating on Canadian National lines in Canada was 13,558. So we were using a balance of roughly 3,000 more of their cars than they were of ours.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Could I get a later dated figure later?

Mr. GORDON: Mr. Dingle can give it to you in a moment.

Mr. ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, near the bottom of the page, \$2 million for special experimental equipment. Could we be given an idea of along what lines that experimental work is?