

Canadian National Railways

devised for the CNR as I said earlier—I do agree. But we should not at the same time forget to take the required precautions so as to solve also the human problems intimately connected with it.

For example, when it is decided to eliminate, for all practical purposes, all the stations, all the stationmasters or all the technicians who are now working in the small railway stations, is it advantageous? I hesitate to say that it may be advantageous in view of the need for decentralization.

● (4:50 p.m.)

But even more serious is the fact that they now neglect entirely the condition of human beings who have been with the company for 20, 25 or 30 years, and for whom no proper means to live fairly and decently are provided, since the existing pension fund is inadequate. And one can hardly imagine, especially in the present circumstances—while unemployment is so acute that we meet an increasingly large number of well-educated unemployed people—how difficult retraining is for an individual of 45, 50 or 55 who must get it to find a new job as well-paid as that of stationmaster or telegraph operator, for instance. Mr. Speaker, this problem must absolutely be solved.

At the present time, the way the problem is approached is absolutely unfair for a rather large number of individuals who are in the same situation. And we wonder, for instance, how it is that a company like General Motors has come to an agreement with its employees to the effect that no matter the age, retirement after thirty years of service will be granted a minimum pension of \$500. Therefore, regardless of age, after thirty years of service, there is a \$500 minimum pension.

Why should not the railway employees' pension fund, with a couple of millions in it, be able to solve the pension problem for those whose jobs will disappear or who will need retraining at an age where that is impossible? Those employees should have at least the same thing, especially since at this time there is no shortage of money in the pension fund.

Now, to solve the problem, if really nothing else can be done, if better techniques are available and if it is believed that stationmasters or telegraph operators in various small stations can be dispensed with, if the problem has been seriously examined and if it is considered that a more adequate and better service will be provided through the new plans, then let us solve equitably the human problem which is involved.

Therefore, what those people are asking for is rather simple and quite fair. They merely ask that retirement be made optional after twenty years of service and that after twenty years of service, an employee who cannot be transferred, cannot be retrained and decides to retire be given a minimum of \$500 per month. Thus we will have at least solved his problem so that he may continue to live decently.

Therefore, it is extremely important to consider all viewpoints with regard to a truly human solution to such a problem.

Mr. Speaker, may I point out that it is five o'clock?

[Mr. Matte.]

[English]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Moose Jaw—sports, 1976 Olympic games; the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants—finance; the hon. member for Broadview—housing.

[Translation]

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills.

[English]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**ESTATE TAX ACT**

AMENDMENT TO PERMIT PAYMENT OF TAX BY
TRANSFERING GOVERNMENT BONDS AT
FACE VALUE

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of introducing legislation to amend the Estate Tax Act to provide that taxes, interest, penalties, costs and other amounts due and payable under that Act in respect of an estate may be paid in whole or in part by the transfer or transmission of government of Canada bonds or other securities of Canada to Her Majesty where such bonds or securities form part of the estate and were acquired by the deceased at least five years prior to his death; and that payment so made shall be deemed to be payment at the face value of such securities with interest, if any, accrued thereon.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the motion you have just read from the Chair asks the government to give consideration to introducing legislation to amend the Estate Tax Act so that Canadians who bought government bonds or other securities in good faith should be able to cash those bonds at face value for the purpose of paying off their succession duties.

● (5:00 p.m.)

In order to take care of any speculation that may be involved in such legislation I have suggested that provisions be included to the effect that these bonds or securities must have been in the hands of the deceased five years prior to death. Of course, it also makes provision for any interest or coupons that might be attached to the bonds or securities. This is the first time that such legislation or a suggestion of this kind has been made in the House, and I think it has some urgency and necessity. In view of the fact that more and more Canadians will be required to pay succession duties, this amendment is of great importance.