

landing. Several demonstration flights were made. From there the aircraft was flown to Ottawa where a similar demonstration was given at Rockcliffe Airport, and was witnessed by some 40 persons—members of the Department of Transport, the Department of National Defence, the press, and others interested in aviation. The aircraft proved capable of doing what it was reputed to be able to do.

It was then supposed to fly to Newfoundland where there were some people interested in it. However, on its way there it developed propeller trouble, and had to make a forced landing, in which it was damaged. The Department of Transport made a regular investigation, and the aircraft was stored in a hangar belonging to the Department of National Defence. About a month after that the company representatives came to Canada to pick up the wreckage, at which time they found that the aircraft had been transferred to a bomb shelter where it had been hacked to pieces.

In the meantime there have been cut out of the two films that were made by the C.B.C. the sections showing the aircraft taking off, flying, and landing. The only thing left is the part which came into my possession about a month ago which shows the aircraft on the field with people standing about. The section of the film in which the aircraft is seen flying has been clipped out.

That is all I have to say, honourable senators. I have given notice of inquiry to find out who authorized the damage to this aircraft and the clipping out of those parts of the films which show the aircraft in flight. When I consider the history of the matter and all the problems that were encountered in bringing the aircraft to Canada, it appears to me that there was something very fishy, and I am inclined to think that there was connivance in the undermining of the project.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

OPERATING COSTS OF MONTREAL-HALIFAX PASSENGER TRAINS—COMPLAINT AS TO ANSWER TO INQUIRY

Hon. Edgar Fournier: Honourable senators, I rise on the Question Period to note the remark made by the honourable Leader of the Government about notices of inquiries. On Thursday last we received an answer to an inquiry from the Canadian National Railways which is unacceptable—although I shall have to accept it against my wishes. The answer which appears in *Hansard* of April 9 is far from satisfactory, and I shall have occa-

[Hon. Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche).]

sion to mention it again tonight if I am able to speak on the debate concerning statutory instruments.

The railway said that because of the competitive situation it would not give the information requested. I would ask the Canadian National Railways: What competition? They are the only railway operating passenger trains in that region, so there is no competition.

The answer does not come from the Canadian Transport Commission, although it is suggested that it should come from that commission. It comes from the Canadian National Railways. Notice of this inquiry was given on March 3, and the answer was received about five weeks later. I cannot understand why it took five weeks for them to come up with such an unacceptable answer, which will certainly lead to other notices of inquiries.

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, I can only say that the reply given is made pursuant to the Railway Act, as amended by the National Transportation Act, which recognizes this situation and has provided for confidentiality of railway cost data. So, the refusal to give the information is based upon a decision taken by this Parliament. Railway costs of this nature are considered confidential in view of the railways' competitive situation.

CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING—ORDER STANDS

On the order:

Resuming the debate on the inquiry of the Honourable Senator Phillips (Rigaud) calling the attention of the Senate to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group held at Washington, Cape Kennedy, Houston and San Antonio, 10th to 15th March, 1970.—(Honourable Senator Willis).

Hon. John M. Macdonald: Honourable senators, Senator Willis has been in touch with us and it is very doubtful that he will be here this evening. He has not been feeling well. I wonder if we could put this item down for later this day, pending his possible arrival. Perhaps the Government Leader will arrange for another Senator to take his place.

Hon. Paul Martin: I was aware of this situation, and it has been arranged that Senator Laird will take Senator Willis' place. To