

There has been some question as to whether this honourable House should send the Bill on for consideration by the other House, it being the elected body of our Parliament. I must say that I do not believe we are sitting as a commission to take evidence on this Bill. If that were true, and we could pass the Bill on to the other House for action, without our endorsement, I should have no objection. The work we have put on this measure and the evidence we have taken are of great value. In my view we are a judicial body and are here to record our honest judgment on the Bill. This being so, we can in my opinion do nothing but discharge our responsibility. That is what the country expects us to do.

In the light of the evidence brought forth by the committee's investigation, which lasted for weeks, I am opposed to this Bill for the following reasons: that it is not in the public interest; that it is not to any appreciable degree a solution of our transportation problem; that if it is passed it will prove a meddling and disturbing attempt at the regimentation of business, which the country can ill afford at this time.

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators—

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators—

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, I was not a member of the committee that dealt with this Bill, but I exercised my right—

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Will my honourable friend allow me to make a suggestion?

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The Hon. Mr. King has the floor.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not wish to detain the House very long, and I want to catch the train at half-past four. Would the honourable gentleman be kind enough to give me precedence?

Hon. Mr. KING: Surely.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I am very much obliged to the honourable gentleman.

Honourable members, we have heard some very interesting speeches on this measure—speeches that are colourful, full of life, and sometimes somewhat vehement. I am surprised that in a calm and judicial House like this we cannot deal with a measure of this kind without language such as has been heard with reference to this proposed legislation, and, what is worse, some evidence of the sentiment back of the language.

I trust that the majority of the members of this House will admit that generally speaking the principle of this Bill—that of regul-

Hon. Mr. McRAE.

ating rates—is good. I emphasize the principle because I know that otherwise I should be rebuked by a great many members of this House. It is true that the principle of the Bill, introduced as it was in the terms of the Bill, came before us in a very unsatisfactory manner. Nevertheless, I think the principle is admitted to be good. The honourable Minister of Transport has said that the Bill required to be rewritten from beginning to end; that it was but a tentative measure. In other words, believing, I suppose, that the guiding principle was good, the Government was feeling its way towards the application of that principle. Well, one thing is sure: if the offspring of the Government as presented to this House was rather homely, deformed and infirm, the committee improved its looks wonderfully.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Lifted its face.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I thank my honourable friend for his assistance, but I suggest that the Bill was a little too young to require face-lifting. What it needed was a major surgical operation.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: It was ill conceived.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: It subjected to regulation a part of Canada's trade which was in competition with world trade not in any way subject to regulation. I think the Senate did excellent work in eliminating that feature. That has gone by the board. The objectionable features have one by one been eliminated.

An Hon. SENATOR: Not all.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: When we come to look at this legislation to-day I wonder whether we should not be justified in saying that the child belongs to this House as much as to the Government. May I say that the efforts of an excellent committee of this House have resulted in a great part of the Bill being good, and I would appeal to honourable members to judge this legislation, which is partly if not mostly their own, fairly, maturely, without prejudice, and without that heat and vehemence noticeable in many of the speeches. The Canadians of the West sometimes cause me a good deal of anxiety. I have told them before, and I wish to tell them now, that we in the East sometimes get tired of the way they treat us. Let me tell them that by no means all the people in the East are rich. Many of them are engaged in the ordinary walks of life, and those of them who have invested their money in our railways and transportation companies find to-day that they are mulcted. Their capital has