

Supply—Transport

basing our transportation system on a sound policy. I congratulate them.

I do not know whether I am out of order but very briefly I wish to support the employees of the C.P.R. in their representations in connection with their pension plan and their protest against the unilateral action on the part of the C.P.R. in implementing changes in the pension plan. I have before me a letter from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division 1579, Nelson, British Columbia. I am not going to speak at any length on this matter except to say that we wholeheartedly support the attitude of these railroad employees and trust that the government will listen to the appeals being made on the Opposition side of the house.

• (5:50 p.m.)

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me say that I trust that this lengthy debate on the minister's estimates, lengthy because very important matters are involved and because there are many members who want to bring certain local problems to his attention, will move the minister to take effective action as the result of the protests and constructive proposals made by members on both sides of the house. I trust and hope he realizes that in making these protests and proposals they are speaking for the people of Canada. I resume my seat, Mr. Chairman, looking forward to the reply of the hon. member for Kootenay East to my comments on his appointment to near greatness.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Kootenay West indulged this afternoon in tactics which he used in my riding throughout the election campaign—

Mr. Herridge: Oh, no. Not I.

Mr. Byrne:—tactics by which he attempted to smear. Those tactics were not successful.

Mr. Herridge: It was a pretty close run.

Mr. Byrne: They were very unsuccessful, I might add. The hon. member referred to an article written by what I term a fiction writer from the press gallery. He is a writer perhaps in the same category as a former member of the New Democratic Party. I classify them both as fiction writers and not as reporters. I am not aware where, Mr. Waring obtained the so-called facts—I should say fiction—that he wrote respecting my appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. This I do know, that from the outset the Prime Minister suggested any one of three important departments, including the

Department of Transport. I felt I should accept the Department of Transport appointment as the one in which I could be of most help. The hon. member for Kootenay West, I think—

Mr. Herridge: Are we looking for help in the Kettle Valley?

Mr. Byrne:—wishes to see that his airport is retained.

Mr. Herridge: That has been completed.

Mr. Byrne: I am sure that he is concerned with transportation in every way.

Mr. Herridge: Quite so. That has all been done.

Mr. Byrne: I am sure that what the hon. member is concerned about is the fact that I was the subject of a very laudatory editorial in a newspaper in his riding. I refer to the *Castlegar News* of Wednesday, January 26, 1966.

Mr. Herridge: Is this news?

Mr. Byrne: I am sure the hon. member will bear with me for a few moments and let me reply to some of the critical remarks he has made about myself. The *Castlegar News* had this to say about my appointment:

Residents of the West Kootenay federal riding will join with their neighbours in the East Kootenay federal riding this week to offer congratulations to Jim Byrne, Member of Parliament for Kootenay East who has been appointed parliamentary secretary to Transport Minister Jack Pickersgill.

Residents in the Castlegar-Kinnaird-Nelson area of the West Kootenay riding have particular reason to be pleased with Mr. Byrne's appointment for he has proved himself a strong friend of the Castlegar airport and is known to favour retention of the present Castlegar and Cranbrook airports and to be opposed to the consolidation of these facilities at Creston.

It goes on in a rather laudatory manner throughout.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: I rise on a point of order. What purpose is being served by this self-laudatory explanation by the hon. member so far as the passing of the estimates of the Department of Transport is concerned? Earlier today the minister suggested that we should deal directly with the estimates of the department and I support the minister in this. I think we should do that right now.

The Chairman: Order, please. I might say that the Chair has been somewhat concerned not only about the answer but also about the question. Since the question came from one end of the Kootenays perhaps we will allow