

is too simple for honourable members to understand. What is in the Speech from the Throne is quite clear. We regard energy and the processing, development and distribution of energy in Canada as being important now as railways were 113 years ago for the development of this country. What we needed then was a network of railways for the capability of transporting our goods from one region to another so that those economic activities could improve.

Now energy occupies that high importance for what we perceive to be the requirements for the immediate future and even the long-term future. Surely that does not involve anything constitutional. It is getting pretty complicated, at least to my mind, to say that the Speech from the Throne also says that we are going to rearrange all the constitutional jurisdictions with respect to ownership and control of energy resources and all of that. We just think it is important for the whole country.

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, I should like to ask a supplementary question. I am pleased, indeed, to hear that the Government of Canada now at last has decided to treat the rights-of-way of power lines in the same term of reference, or the same framework, as railways and pipelines. When can we expect that information to be conveyed to the Government of Newfoundland so they can get on with the power grid across Quebec?

Senator Olson: That question has been outstanding for a long, long time, and I hope it is resolved soon.

Senator Doody: Do I take from that that the honourable senator has answered in the affirmative and that it is now the policy of the Government of Canada, or have I misinterpreted the reply?

Senator Olson: What I have said, and I would not want the honourable senator to put any different interpretation on it, is that an application to the National Energy Board for power and gas lines that cross provincial borders does, in fact, come under the National Energy Board.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): And does that mean, in reply to Mr. Peckford's request, that the government has no intention of invoking any legislative authority or power to try to solve the problem between Quebec and Newfoundland?

● (1425)

Senator Olson: I am not sure if there is an application being considered now, but I am sure that several governments, prior to the present administration, have tried to resolve that problem.

Senator Flynn: Several?

Senator Olson: Yes.

Senator Flynn: I would like you to tell us whose governments they were.

[Senator Olson.]

AIRLINES

APPLICATION OF EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS TO EXTEND SERVICE

Hon. Cyril B. Sherwood: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government if he can tell us where the application of Eastern Provincial Airways to the Canadian Transport Commission, to extend their services from Halifax to Toronto, now stands.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I understand that there may be an appeal lodged by Eastern Provincial Airways with respect to this matter and that some appeal may be made to the federal cabinet.

I will take the question as notice and will provide any information that may be available. I do not know the status of correspondence from Eastern Provincial Airways to Ottawa.

Senator Sherwood: Honourable senators, I should like to say to the Leader of the Government that Eastern Provincial Airways presently serves many short hauls in the Atlantic region. Some of those hauls, of course, are not too viable, and to extend the company's service from Halifax into Toronto would make a vast difference to the company, as well as to the service rendered the various Atlantic communities.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Sherwood: I should like to ask the Leader of the Government if he would impress upon his colleague, the Minister of Transport, the importance of this application.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, the honourable senator's question will be brought to the attention of the Minister of Transport and my other cabinet colleagues.

May I say that all of us in government, I am sure, are aware of the fine reputation of Eastern Provincial Airways and of CP Air. I can only give the pledge that the information I promised will be obtained as soon as possible and that the honourable senator's question will be brought to the attention of my cabinet colleagues.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE ANDRÉ OUELLET

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government. In the House of Commons yesterday, pursuing, I believe, a speech he had started the day before, the Hon. André Ouellet launched into a diatribe against the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, claiming it was infested with separatists. If my memory serves me right, those same charges or allegations were made by Mr. Ouellet a few years ago. An inquiry set up by the former Liberal government found that those accusations were groundless.

My question is therefore: Was Mr. Ouellet speaking on behalf of the government when he made those accusations? Secondly, does Mr. Ouellet or the government have proof that those allegations are well founded?