

*Canadian National Railways*

same, we cannot be certain that the government will insist that the Canadian National in its tender documents will say that a number of people local to the area involved in the construction are to be employed. That may be a roundabout way of saying what I want to say. Perhaps the only way to bring this matter forcefully to the government's attention is by moving an amendment. Therefore, Mr. Speaker I move:

That this Bill C-109 be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole house for the purpose of reconsidering clause 2 thereof.

We seek, by our motion, to bring this matter to the attention of members of the house and in a roundabout way to the attention of Canadian National Railways. The Fifth Annual Review of the Canada Council, on the topic of the challenge of growth and change, says that in remote areas in the country it is difficult to find employment for the local people who, very often, are not trained to take advantage of any employment opportunities that do exist.

To make sure that local people are employed, a clause specifying their employment will have to be included in contracts, and that will be a factor in assessing costs. The government must insist on this if it wishes to see people in remote localities gainfully employed.

Actually, we are not dealing directly with a crown corporation; third parties are involved and the crown corporation will deal with those third parties. Third parties will be employing those local people, and Canadian National must be informed that in preparing its tender documents consideration must be given to the employment of local people.

Sometimes local projects, from the point of view of providing employment, are of no value to the local people. In my area large sums of money are being spent for a hydro development. In the main that development does not help our local people. They do not need the project; they have all the electricity they can use, and even more. This hydro project is to provide electricity for southern Ontario. Since our local people are not working on it it is worthless in developing our area.

The government has suddenly decided that it has a role to play across Canada in providing employment for our Indians. We have the responsibility of seeing that subcontracts which are let in connection with the subject matter of this bill have clauses in them specifying employment of local people. We think

[Mr. Peters.]

this is only fair. Naturally we are not saying that 10 per cent or 20 per cent of any work force must be local people. Often local people may not be able to fill jobs. We are not tying this matter down rigidly. On the other hand, we do want to see local people employed and we do want to see contracts specifying the employment of local people. This matter will be raised again when the Canadian National estimates are before the house. We assure the Canadian National that we shall follow its actions closely in this matter and that we have ways of keeping this matter current. We have moved the amendment so that the house may express itself in the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has not indicated whether he has a seconder for his motion.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I could second the motion, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the house ready for the question?

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** I suggest, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the motivation of the hon. member in putting forward this amendment, that the first calculation here ought to be with regard to the availability of labour in the particular area, and as to who lives in the area northwest of Whitecourt, Alberta. This is not in the far north where a sizeable percentage of the population is native.

First let us determine what is meant by a local area. Is it within a radius of 100 miles? Is it the area within that 100 mile radius? What is the incidence of unemployment in the area? This is close to the Fox Creek area, near to what is known as the Valleyview oil area. In my view, if a person is out of a job in that area, in most instances it is, frankly, because he does not want to work.

**Mr. Peters:** Really!

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Is the hon. member so conversant with the area? I would say, with regard to this particular area, that to try to impose these kinds of terms on the construction of the extension of a spur line for the sulphur plant and the absorption plant is not realistic.

● (3:50 p.m.)

Suppose we prescribe by statute that a certain percentage of local labour must be used, and this local labour is not available; what will be the situation? Hon. members in their