

that the bill would be referred to committee. I hope that when the bill is before the committee the person who estimated these costs will be present and will tell us on what basis he estimated the costs.

I understand, honourable senators, and I stand to be corrected, that the survey necessary for the proper construction of this railway line has not yet been completed, and I ask the sponsor of this bill to have somebody before the committee tomorrow to confirm or deny what I have said. If I am right, how do we know how much this railway is going to cost?

Honourable senators, I thought I should bring these matters to your attention. I am amazed that Parliament should be asked to approve this bill. I wonder if any businessman here, doing business on behalf of his own company, would enter into such an arrangement as this when he had not even seen the agreement and had only the sparse facts we have before us in connection with this railway. All I have to say in closing is that I do trust we will be able to get a lot more information tomorrow than it is possible for us to get at this sitting this evening.

Hon. Mr. Buchanan: I could have given more information here but I thought it would be better to leave it until the bill went before the committee.

Hon. G. Percival Burchill: Honourable senators, I just want to say a few words to join in the expression of amazement—and I want to underline the word “amazement”—at the Government asking us to pass this piece of legislation tonight. I am simply amazed that such a half-baked proposition would be put before the responsible body that I hope this is.

I understood the sponsor of the bill to say that if this ore body were not developed it would be necessary for Canada to get the ore from South America. I want to say to my honourable friend that the whole northern shore of the province of New Brunswick is a bed of ore, and if you are short of ore supplies in Alberta all you have to do is come to New Brunswick and we will give you all you want.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: What type of ore do you have there?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: Copper, lead, and zinc. We have the Brunswick and other mines down there, and a railway authorized by this Parliament was built by the Canadian National into the Heath steel mine a few years ago. We also have a concentrating mill standing idle. The rails are rusting and the mine is going begging for somebody to develop it. For two years mining people have been trying to find a market for this ore and, happily,

in the last two or three months some progress has been made in that direction. I repeat, if you are short of ore in the province of Alberta just come to New Brunswick for it.

Hon. Mr. Buchanan: Evidently you do not have the right grade of ore.

Hon. Mr. Burchill: I do not know anything about grades of ore, but I understand that what we have there is a very good grade.

I do want to say, honourable senators, after joining with the leader on this side of the house (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) in expressing amazement, that if we pass this bill tonight it should be done with the understanding that we reserve the right to express our opinions on third reading of the bill after hearing all the information we can get in committee.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Is it not a fact that there is a metallurgical problem in connection with the New Brunswick ore, and that is the reason the mine is not in production today?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: I am given to understand that that trouble has been solved.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: I understand it has not been.

Hon. R. B. Horner: Honourable senators, I would like to point out to the honourable senator from Northumberland-Miramichi (Hon. Mr. Burchill) that on the question of grade of ore, we have had information for a number of years that this Pine Point ore is of a very high grade.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) mentioned the Canadian Pacific Railway. As I understand the situation, the Northern Alberta Railways is operated jointly by the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific, and in view of this joint operation both railways will benefit through the haulage of the ore to Trail where there is located one of the finest metallurgical plants in the world.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): Can my friend tell me who has controlling interest in that operation at Trail?

Hon. Mr. Horner: Perhaps you have some of it.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): No, I have not.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Thousands of Canadians have an interest in it.

But, honourable senators, that is not the point. There is one aspect of this proposed railway construction that the honourable senator did not mention, the question as to whether it would not be more economical to ship the ore out by waterways, by a route