

## Supply—Transport

it is the wish of the house. I think the wish of the house is to deal with these particular items in detail. With the co-operation of hon. members I would hope that it would be possible to get on with this.

**Mr. Johnston:** I would not like the impression to go abroad that the statement which was carried by the *Citizen* was wrong, because I now have a copy of the minister's speech. As I look over it I find that the statement which was carried by the *Ottawa Citizen* on February 23 is quite correct. Possibly the minister will say that it is a part taken from the whole. He could have some argument there. But the quotation carried in the *Citizen* is exactly the same as the text.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I am not saying that the *Citizen's* report is incorrect. I have not seen it. I think that it would be correct. All I am saying to my hon. friend is that the speech was fairly long, and in a report in the *Citizen* he would not get what is contained in the speech. I suggest to him that he read the speech. We can defer this discussion to a future date.

**Mr. Abbott:** May I add my appeal to that of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chairman? We are asked to vote \$16,700 to cover additional amounts for telephones, telegrams and sundries, to clean up items for which commitments already have been made. I think a strict interpretation of the rules of these supplementary estimates is that hon. members' remarks should be directed to the item under discussion. Under the general item of departmental administration in the main estimates, by practice or convention, we discuss all the administration of the department. But if we are to finish today I would appeal to hon. members to restrict their remarks. There are a number of very important estimates to come before us, including the deficit of the Canadian National Railways. If we discuss transportation matters generally we shall be here forever.

**Mr. Fleming:** I rise not to discuss this matter but to ask this question. Does the government look to the royal commission to make some finding or recommendation on this question of the relationship of federal and provincial jurisdiction with reference to the whole transportation problem, particularly with regard to, let us say, interprovincial and international traffic?

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I cannot give a definite answer to that, other than to say that the terms of reference of the royal commission are pretty broad. They include quite a number of matters; they also include a general reference to transportation

policy as a whole. What the royal commission will recommend I am not in a position to say, although I believe they have powers to recommend a general transportation policy for Canada.

**Mr. Green:** When is the report expected?

**Mr. Fleming:** The point I want to make is that it is within the scope of the reference.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Yes.

**Mr. Hatfield:** Further in regard to the severe shortage of refrigerator cars in New Brunswick, I should like to read the following telegram which I received from the Canadian Pacific Railway. It reads as follows:

Montreal, March 16, 1950—Your message yesterday to general freight manager Canadian Pacific Railway shortage refrigerators New Brunswick due to unusual demand this class car for movement apples from British Columbia to Vancouver account donation British Columbia to England also as result slow return our equipment to us due shortage coal United States railways we expect gradual improvement.

R. E. Taylor

**Mr. Fraser:** I do not want to hold up this estimate, but on this item I want to ask one question. There was a million dollar fire in the transportation building in Quebec city last Friday night. The minister has not said anything to the house about it. According to the report the transportation building on the Quebec waterfront belonged to the Department of Transport. I wondered what that building was for and who did own it?

**Mr. Chevrier:** It is the building of the marine agency of the Department of Transport in the city of Quebec. It is the building which is connected with the agency which looks after administration of marine services for the lower St. Lawrence area. I have not had a complete report from our officers. There is someone down there now dealing with it. Until I have a report I am not in a position to say anything more.

**Mr. Fraser:** According to the report, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are probing the fire. The reason I bring it up is this. We had another fire in an airplane hangar up near London, Ontario, which ran into a million dollars; we had one in the ordnance depot in Ottawa, which ran to three-quarters of a million dollars or more, and I wondered whether there was not something wrong with the set-up. There is no proper fire protection or sprinkler system in those buildings or that would not happen. The minister might try some of the fire-resistant paint that I mentioned some time ago. It might help.

**Mr. Green:** When is it expected that the royal commission on transportation will report?