

● (2050)

In eastern New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and I think in most of Nova Scotia, there is no railway express service to compete with the CNR. They are acting unilaterally, and they are going to close some of these express offices. Do Dr. Bandeen, his officials and the management of the CNR intend to ignore those parts of the maritimes, which are not served by the prime competitor, the CP Express, or do they just say let the other private trucking companies fight over this?

**Senator Perrault:** Honourable senators, I appreciate the view so eloquently expressed by Honourable Senator Riley. However, in my view it would be wrong for the Leader of the Government to attempt to pre-empt the important role of Honourable Senator Smith as Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications.

Senator Riley or any other honourable senator may wish to initiate an inquiry in this chamber on the subject of CN transportation policies in the Atlantic provinces. That would be one way in which honourable senators would be able to state their views on this important subject. However, I feel sure that Senator Smith would listen sympathetically to the appeal made this evening by Senator Riley. It would be entirely in order for the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications, and those who serve on that important committee, to initiate some sort of inquiry.

**Senator Riley:** I have a supplementary question. I appreciate what the Leader of the Government has said, but would it not be better if, in order to clarify the questions in the minds of the honourable senators from the Atlantic provinces, Dr. Bandeen said, "I am concerned about their concern and I would like to request, through Senator Smith, the chairman, that I be allowed to appear before the committee to explain what we are doing"? I intend, and I am sure other senators from the Atlantic provinces intend, to discuss this with Senator Smith, but I think it would be a magnanimous gesture if Dr. Bandeen and his officials volunteered to come before the committee to clear up what may be a misunderstanding, or what may be discrimination against the people of the Atlantic provinces in respect of CN Express service.

**Senator Perrault:** I understand that Dr. Bandeen is a close follower of Senate *Debates*, and I am sure he will read in the record of tonight's proceedings the remarks made by Senator Riley. Tonight's discussion may well inspire Dr. Bandeen to offer voluntarily to appear before a committee of the Senate. Senator Riley has developed such an interest in the subject of transportation in the maritime provinces and certain actions anticipated by the CNR, that perhaps he may wish to write a personal letter to Dr. Bandeen. Dr. Bandeen in the past has certainly been very forthcoming in his attitude towards Parliament. I know that we would all be interested to hear the kind of reply received by Senator Riley.

**Senator Riley:** I do not have very much clout with Dr. Bandeen.

[Senator Riley.]

**Hon. Robert Muir:** Honourable senators, to further this a little bit, I certainly appreciate the comments of Senator Riley, Senator Rowe and the others who have expressed themselves. I fully endorse having Dr. Bandeen before the committee, and I will certainly make that representation to the chairman of the committee. The Leader of the Government suggests that Senator Riley has developed an interest in transportation. He always had an interest in transportation. He always devoted his time to that sort of thing. That is quite true.

The other point I want to make is that the Leader of the Government also suggests that perhaps Senator Riley would like to write a letter to Dr. Bandeen. Is the Leader of the Government in the Senate aware that I have been writing, I have been calling, and I have been talking to CN officials in Montreal on behalf of a man who, after serving for 34 years, went on pre-retirement, and with all their computers, all the whiz kids and all the brilliant people down there in Montreal, including Dr. Bandeen, he was told he would receive a certain amount of money per month for a pension. He received that amount for one month. Every month since then he has received \$124 less than what it was stated he was going to get, and, despite all our efforts, we cannot get this man's pension straightened out. It is there in black and white—"You will receive this amount." He has never received it. I think it would be wonderful if we had Dr. Bandeen before the committee, not some of his back-row boys. We want Dr. Bandeen so we can ask him. That is the man we want.

**Senator Perrault:** A number of questions have been asked this evening concerning the Canadian National Railways. I have committed myself to obtaining certain information with respect to the operation of the CN and details with respect to provisions made for those employees who may be taking early retirement. It has been suggested now that Dr. Bandeen appear before a committee of the Senate. I am sure that many honourable senators would support the idea and would like to see a Senate committee undertake that kind of initiative. Certainly there would be no resistance on the part of the government. I anticipate that many of those who support the government in the chamber would be in support of the idea.

Frankly, at some point it could be of value to have representatives from the CPR appear to answer certain questions about that operation in western Canada and other parts of Canada. Certainly, it is appropriate that the Standing Senate Committee on Transportation and Communications, in view of the fact that the Senate was established to protect regional interests in the country, should concern itself with the manner in which we are served by the CN, the CP, other rail lines, Air Canada, Eastern Provincial Airways, Nordair, PWA and other air carriers, and other modes of transportation. Perhaps some of our standing committees should be more wide-ranging than they have been in the past. There has not been one committee activity undertaken by any standing committee of the Senate which has failed to produce anything but outstanding work. I am sure that the Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Transportation and Communications, who is a very capable person—as are the other members of that committee—with