

work. I think perhaps this has some value. I think Mr. Gordon was right in saying it is more than offset by the time that is involved.

Mr. CATHERS: Mr. McGregor, you mentioned that actually these statistics which were compiled were very costly. Have you any idea of an estimate in dollars, of what it costs you to get the figures for this meeting?

Mr. MCGREGOR: No, I would not have.

Mr. CATHERS: I know it is pretty difficult.

Mr. MCGREGOR: Because you can say that a report is sent in—for instance, we were asked for the boarding passenger load at every city across Canada. This is compiled from the gross roots up. It begins at the station itself, checked by an accounting record of ticket sales. You might say that all the people who may be involved in that would have to be doing that type of work in any case, but the fact is that additional work generally means additional people. Perhaps you might not say that we could remove four people out of this staff if this statistic was not kept.

Mr. CATHERS: On that point asked, about the boarding passengers, you were hesitant to answer. Is that information that might be helpful to your competitor?

Mr. MCGREGOR: Yes.

Mr. CATHERS: Then I would suggest that that information not be tabled because we do not want our company to be divulging information that is going to be of use to someone else.

The CHAIRMAN: The same thing that was given last year, Mr. Smith's question.

Mr. CATHERS: That is last year's question and I do not think our airline company should be asked to divulge information that might be helpful to competitors.

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: I think if we are to continue to divulge too much information, we had better sell it out to another private owner. Seriously, what is your pleasure? Mr. Smith is not here.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I notice Mr. Smith was asking for it on behalf of somebody else and was not pressing for it. While it is true it was asked for last year, perhaps it should not have been given and, if it is the feeling of the committee that it should not be given this year, then perhaps we should not ask him to give it.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we more or less acquiesced in the proposal when Mr. Smith was here.

Mr. CHOWN: It was Mr. Fisher's question. I believe, however, if Mr. Chevrier put this in the form of a motion we might vote on it, whether or not Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher are present.

The CHAIRMAN: I think in this committee we are still sitting and I imagine we have authority not to publish it if we do not want to. It comes back to the similar situation which we had in respect of the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. DRYSDALE: I will make the motion that the question asked by Mr. Smith on behalf of Mr. Fisher—

Mr. FRASER: Mr. Fisher's name was not mentioned.

Mr. DRYSDALE: —that the question asked by Mr. Smith in respect of information on the boarding loads at every station across Canada be refused.

Mr. CREAGHAN: Or that the information be given Mr. Smith but not made a part of the record.