

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

• (10:00 p.m.)

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[Translation]

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—PROPOSED
ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN STOPS IN
LOTBINIÈRE COUNTY, QUE.**

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved in speaking before such a vast crowd as honours me tonight by listening to the particularly important words I intend to say.

This problem concerns mostly the rural areas and is becoming an even greater concern in the wake of certain decisions taken by the C.N.R., which I consider arbitrary.

Far from me the thought of minimizing the immense services this company has rendered to the people of Canada, but it may happen that in some instances administrative decisions are unfortunate. This is the kind of case I should like to bring to the attention of this house tonight and to the attention of the parliamentary secretary of the Minister of Transport, the distinguished member for Kootenay East (Mr. Byrne) who, to my mind, often shows a marked superiority over his colleague for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge).

Mr. Speaker, the C.N.R. has decided rather suddenly that passenger trains would no longer stop in the picturesque and lively municipality of Manseau, in the constituency of Lotbinière. One characteristic of Manseau is a very hard-working population.

When speaking of Manseau, I feel I should stress the importance of the achievements of the Savoie family, one of the wonderful French-Canadian families, which is a real honour for the people of the Lotbinière county and which has rendered this whole county, but particularly Manseau, services about which we will never hear enough.

I received recently a copy of a resolution passed by the municipal council of the village of Manseau, whose mayor is Mr. Téséphore Soucy. I also received a copy of a resolution passed by the municipal council of Saint-Joseph de Blandford and the parish of Manseau. The secretary-treasurer of these two municipalities, notary Normand Provencher, wrote to me in somewhat alarming terms precisely to call my attention to this very deplorable situation created by the

[Mr. MacEachen.]

elimination of the Canadian National stop-over at Manseau.

After having consulted the stationmaster, Mr. Marquis—another prominent citizen who works devotedly for the good of his community—he told me this: “At Manseau, at least \$500 worth of tickets are sold each month.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is understandable in some respects that the C.N.R. would like to eliminate some stops for passenger trains in communities where it sells practically no tickets. But when, on the average, up to \$500 worth of tickets are sold each month, I think that the C.N.R. has nothing to lose by stopping for a few moments to let passengers come aboard.

Whenever there are no passengers, the train could go right through. But, today, means of communications are sufficiently developed for the conductor of the train to be advised, some distance away, that a few passengers wish to board the train. Therefore, it would be quite fitting to reverse the decision, which I deplore this evening in this brief debate.

What burns me up most, Mr. Speaker, is the affront to rural areas. I quite understand that urban centres are numerically more important, but I feel that legitimate consideration would be shown our rural areas by keeping the stop system for passenger trains, in order to pick up passengers who live not necessarily in the town I am referring to, namely Manseau, but in neighboring villages. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the parishes of Sainte-Sophie-de-Lévrard, Sainte-Cécile-de-Lévrard, and Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets are beautiful municipalities which do us honour and which we are happy to have as components of the beautiful territory of the Lotbinière county.

The people who live in those municipalities, located a few miles away from Manseau, come to Manseau to take the train and go to Drummondville or Montreal. Therefore, this is useful not only for the people of Manseau but also for the surrounding communities.

In view of the somewhat arbitrary and quite sudden decision of the C.N.R., I think that I must share the sad feelings expressed by the mayors of Manseau and Saint-Jean-de-Blandford, by notary Provencher, by the secretary-treasurer of both municipalities, and by the station master, Mr. Marquis, by the Savoie family, in short, by all the others who are interested in the economic development of their area.