

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Tuesday, March 25, 1969**

The house met at 2 p.m.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### DISCUSSION UPON THE CALLING OF THE ORDER FOR A MOTION TO CONCUR IN FIFTH REPORT

On the order:

March 21, 1969—Mr. Lessard (LaSalle) (Chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications):

That the Fifth report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, presented to the House on Wednesday, March 19, 1969, be concurred in.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Presenting reports from standing and special committees. The hon. member for LaSalle—

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before calling this motion in the name of my hon. friend from LaSalle I wonder if it would be possible for me to raise a question of order concerning a recommendation in the report. In doing so, I take no exception to the preamble of the report and the analysis arrived at by the transportation committee as a result of its travels.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Order.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Obviously, I take no exception to the first recommendation.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands has risen on a point of order. My understanding is that the President of the Privy Council has risen on a point of order.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** If the minister has risen on a point of order, I would suggest to Your Honour that in all propriety he ought to state his

point of order. I take it from the remarks he has made so far that he is objecting to certain statements in the report. That is not a point of order. If the minister has a point of order, the house should hear it and Your Honour should rule on it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest I should hear the point of order before I can rule on it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, Hear.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I am directing myself, as I indicated, to the final recommendation of the report and wish to raise a question of order with respect to that.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I trust I might be heard before others participate in the discussion of this matter.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** But don't get into the heart of the report.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I raise a point of order with respect to that part of the report which deals with the passenger train service in Newfoundland. That part reads as follows:

Your committee recommends that the order of the Canadian Transport Commission, authorizing the Canadian National Railways to suspend rail passenger service in Newfoundland on April 5, 1969, be left in abeyance, until your committee tables its complete report in respect to this question.

Incidentally I believe the correct date is April 15 and not April 5, 1969, as stated in the report. My question of order is whether it is in order for a standing committee to make recommendations that this house itself could not make. I would like to submit two considerations in this regard. The first is that the standing committee cannot by resolution in effect purport to repeal what is already an act of this parliament. I would like to make reference to the provisions of the Railway Act in this regard.

**Mr. MacEwan:** Then what is the point of committees?

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker—