

Supply—Transport

from Newfoundland can come from Newfoundland on the Canadian National railway and the Canadian National steamship services and arrive in Ottawa on their House of Commons passes. Those who come from New Brunswick find that they can travel through the United States, but they have to pay their fare when they travel through the United States on the Canadian railways, which is then a United States company, which is as separate from the Canadian railway company as is the Canadian Pacific Railway coast steamships. All you have to do is to send the receipts down to the Canadian Pacific Railway agent here and you get a refund. But there are three members of parliament here, the hon. member for Victoria, the Minister of Fisheries; the hon. member for Nanaimo, and the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, who cannot get to parliament unless they pay the Canadian Pacific steamships their fare from Victoria to Vancouver or from Nanaimo to Vancouver. Why the Canadian Pacific Railway should refund the maritime members their fare and not make this concession to the three Vancouver island members I do not know.

This afternoon I raised the matter of subsidy which the Canadian Pacific steamships are not backward about asking for, a subsidy which is given them for their operation on the west coast. I can think of a little steamship line in my riding which does not get subsidies from the Department of Transport but it does extend the courtesy of a pass to the local members of parliament on their steamship lines because they feel that that was the sense of the original provision in the Railway Act.

I know that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni does not need the actual fare between Nanaimo and Vancouver. His predecessor who was also well endowed with this world's goods probably did not either; but it is more than that. It is the principle of the thing. There are three members of parliament who cannot come to parliament on their House of Commons passes, and I think quite frankly that the minister should pay a little attention to it, or perhaps hon. members should pay a little attention to it.

Mr. Gibson: Nova Scotia members are in the same position.

Mr. Sinclair: Yes, therefore it rises above sectionalism. I think members of all parties should pay a little more attention to the subsidies we give to these Canadian steamships if the Canadian Pacific feels that it is necessary to adhere so closely to the letter of the law so far as the British Columbia members are concerned and yet be so

[Mr. Sinclair.]

generous with their cash refunds so far as the New Brunswick members are concerned.

Mr. Kirk (Digby-Yarmouth): In case there may be a misapprehension so far as the members from Nova Scotia are concerned, those who use the Canadian Pacific steamship *Princess Helene* pay their fare on that ship and do not get a refund. The refund they get is when they go through the state of Maine by train.

Mr. Sinclair: I was just mentioning New Brunswick.

Mr. Kirk (Digby-Yarmouth): They do not travel by steamship.

Mr. Gibson: I have just been informed that the Canadian Pacific inland steamships on Arrow lakes honour the passes. The hon. member for Kootenay West tells me that they give him the courtesy there and honour his pass. They do not give him a special pass. I have been told by certain Canadian Pacific Railway officials if I wish to make a submission in conjunction with the Minister of Fisheries—the Minister of Fisheries certainly must have a pass, I do not know. They suggested—

Mr. Winters: I would not think so.

Mr. Gibson: Perhaps he does not have one. He should have one, certainly.

Mr. Winters: The Minister of Resources and Development does not have a pass on the *Princess Helene*.

Mr. Gibson: He should have one on the *Princess Helene*. As I was saying, the hon. member for Kootenay West told me that his pass is honoured on the inland steamships of the Canadian Pacific Railway. When it comes to the point of going up the west coast of Vancouver island, \$100,000 of a subsidy is paid. I am quite sure that if the hon. member for Nanaimo and I went to the Canadian Pacific steamships and said: Will you please give us a pass? We think probably you should. We did not oppose your subsidy in the house. Then they probably would. As a principle, I do not think that a member of parliament ought to barter his support or otherwise with any steamship or railway company of Canada. Once again, as a matter of principle, I think the minister owes it to us. The fact that we come from these far distances and live on islands should not be a disability to us, so far as members of parliament are concerned.

Mr. Chevrier: Owes what to you? I do not quite understand the hon. member.

Mr. Gibson: The minister can get around his riding without paying any railway fare.