

Hon. Mr. HOWE: I presume at the moment what you want is the contribution of Trans-Canada Air Lines to the railway on their account, is it not?

Hon. Mr. HANSON: Oh, no; it is very limited. I should like to know what these people are getting. I am a believer in paying good salaries. I think the government services as a rule are underpaid for good men, but I think the public has a right to know what the salaries are.

Hon. Mr. HOWE: I ask the honourable member if he does not think the proper man to give that evidence is the president of the railway when he is on the stand? After all, Trans-Canada Air Lines do not pay their salaries, and it does not seem to me that Mr. Symington is the appropriate person to ask for that information.

Mr. SYMINGTON: He is asking for Mr. Larson's and these other people's salaries.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: I am not asking for Mr. Fairweather's or Dr. Dowd's salaries; I presume they are well paid.

Mr. HANSON (*Skeena*): Should we not proceed with the report before we discuss the salaries?

The CHAIRMAN: It is quite legitimate. The only question that presents itself to my mind is whether the policy of the railway company has a right to be questioned by this committee.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: I am not questioning the quantum; I would probably approve every one of them, but what I am raising is the question of principle. Is not the public entitled to know what the salaries of these operating officials are?

The CHAIRMAN: You mean has the company the right to cover the salaries of the officials in the interest of business, of their own business?

Hon. Mr. HANSON: This is a publicly-owned company and there are no competitors.

Mr. SYMINGTON: May I suggest this to you? You are perfectly right, the government companies are underpaid.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: I said "civil servants".

Mr. SYMINGTON: Well, I think officials of the government companies relatively are underpaid too.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: That may be true.

Mr. SYMINGTON: And it is very difficult you see sometimes to get good men for your somewhat junior positions, with the idea that they will work up to higher positions, if a limit is put on their salaries by a parliamentary committee or if—

Hon. Mr. HANSON: I do not think a parliamentary committee would undertake to put a limit on their salaries.

Mr. SYMINGTON: Or if their private affairs are bandied about. I think it is an objectionable principle. As I say, I am in the hands of the committee, but I feel a public company should as far as possible be operated the same as a private company, if it has got to compete—

Hon. Mr. HANSON: You will notice, Mr. Symington, in the United States the salaries of the executive officials in private companies are now being published. The whole trend is that way, to let the stockholders know what is being paid. These people are in a different category in that they are servants of the public to a degree. In addition to that, if you are paying decent salaries you need not worry about your competitors. As a matter of fact, this company has no competitors.

Mr. SYMINGTON: Yes, it has.

Hon. Mr. HANSON: Well, in a very limited sense.