

Mr. GRAY: Should there not be, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Mr. MANION: I cannot answer that offhand. Apparently if there should be, then I think the management would have brought it to me, because I pass very many orders in council for them.

Mr. GRAY: I am asking for a matter of information. My impression is that capital expenditures require an order in council.

Hon. Mr. MANION: No, they do not require an order in council. I do not think they require an order in council in any shape or form once the budget is passed for the railway. Once the budget is passed for the railway, the railway has the spending of the money. If they change or switch the money, then there has to be an order in council. Once the budget is passed, as far as spending the money is concerned, they are in complete control, I have nothing whatever to do with it.

Mr. GRAY: Was this passed in any budget?

Hon. Mr. MANION: I do not remember, but there were alterations being made in the hotel about that time. The hotel had a new wing put on amounting to three or four million dollars, I think, perhaps more.

Mr. GRAY: I suggest to the Minister that that was all completed at that time.

Hon. Mr. MANION: Possibly.

Mr. GRAY: Should it not require an order in council?

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter of legal opinion.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I am convinced it did not require an order in council, or the management would have brought me an order in council to sign.

Rt. Hon. Mr. BENNETT: I think this memorandum from Sir Henry Thornton would clear that up:—

There is sufficient money available to do what is proposed, and I can repeat that I am personally prepared to assume entire responsibility for what is done on the ground that it is a sound business proposition.

This is a memorandum not to me, but it was communicated to me while I was in London, and the President himself in September said it would not exceed \$50,000.

The CHAIRMAN: There are questions Mr. Duff asked about Mr. Bennett's car and questions Dr. Manion asked about Mr. Mackenzie King's car. Let us get them on the record.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Mr. Duff asked this question:—

What was the total cost of the new car the Prime Minister now is using, including the cost of the trucks and body of the car which, I understand, was in the shops of the Canadian National Railways at Point St. Charles when the car was built, the total cost of everything, including the amount which was spent by United States decorators who came over to fix this car; and I would like also to know what became of the old car, No. 100, and how much money was spent on it after it was turned over to the Canadian National Railway officials as a business car?

The answer is:—

(a) The Prime Minister's car, No. 100, was previously coach 5043.

(b) The book value of coach 5043 was \$34,917—the salvage at time of conversion was \$25,000—the cost of conversion was \$50,554—the total of conversion cost and salvage is \$75,554.

(c) No amount was spent for United States decorators in connection with this conversion.