

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** With leave, next sitting.

**WABANA, NEWFOUNDLAND, AIRSTRIP**  
NOTICE OF INQUIRY STANDS

On the notice of inquiry by Hon. Mr. Pratt:

Have plans been prepared for the building of an airstrip at Wabana, Newfoundland, and, if so, when does the Department of Transport propose to proceed with the work?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I would ask that this notice stand for one week.

**SENATE STATIONERY**

NOTICE OF INQUIRY STANDS

On the notice of inquiry by Hon. Mr. Pouliot:

1. What was the item in the Estimates for office stationery, supplies and equipment for the Senate during each one of the last twenty years and what is it now?

2. What was the salary of the Chief of the Senate Stationery Branch during each one of those years and what is it now?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I would ask that this notice stand for one week.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATIONERY—**  
NOTICE OF MOTION STANDS

On the notice of motion by Hon. Mr. Pouliot:

31st January—For a copy of each one of the annual reports of the Subcommittee on Stationery to the Committee on Internal Economy of the Senate during each one of the last twenty years.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I would ask that this notice also stand for one week.

**APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1**  
THIRD READING

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald** moved the third reading of Bill 25, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1957.

**Hon. Thomas Reid:** Honourable senators, in rising to speak on the motion for third reading of this bill, may I say I am doing so because of the serious difficulties in which the farmers of British Columbia now find themselves. Two matters affect them adversely at present: one has to do with the cost of feed and coarse grains; and the other is that of dumping poultry, turkeys, livestock and potatoes into Canada from the United States. I intend to say something particularly on this subject later in the session, when the bill which has to do with the Wheat Board comes before us. However, after listening to the remarks of some honourable senators last

evening during the debate on the second reading of the present bill, I felt it was incumbent upon me to make a few statements on behalf of the province of British Columbia.

I was particularly surprised to hear two honourable senators from the Prairie provinces criticize the freight assistance on western feed grains shipped to the eastern provinces. The people of Canada, and particularly those of us who live in British Columbia, think the federal Government has been very good to those who live on the Prairies. We have seen the treasury make many gifts to the farmers of the three Prairie provinces. I think they should realize that if people in the far west or in central and eastern Canada get any assistance on feed grains it will help the sale of grain from the Prairie provinces. For that reason I am surprised to hear senators from the Prairies condemn this assistance.

I expected to hear the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) say something about the preliminary report of the Gordon Commission. Perhaps they have not noted the fact that it advocates replacing the Crowsnest Pass freight rates with certain other forms of assistance. I do not intend to go further into that report this afternoon, except to say that in this respect the Gordon Commission produced nothing that we did not already know. The Rowell-Sirois Commission Report of 1940 substantiated the Crowsnest Pass rates, and the Turgeon Commission of 1950-51 made similar findings. I say the Gordon Commission did not look carefully into this question of freight assistance before making its rather general statement, and I am surprised that neither of the two senators to whom I have referred attacked the proposal to eliminate the Crowsnest Pass rates.

Considerable freight assistance on western feed grains has been given to British Columbia and the central and eastern provinces, and while I am not going to weary you with figures I think it is necessary to put on the record just what has been expended by the Government in this connection. I want to be frank, because I do not think that anything in the nature of such information should be overlooked or glossed over.

From 1941 to 1956 the federal Government had paid out on this freight assistance a total of over \$261 million. The amount of grain assisted has been almost 61 million tons. When we have the Wheat Board Bill before us I am going to suggest that it will be well to give some study to the possibility of changing the measurement of quantities of wheat from bushels to pounds