

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 10, 1962

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. A. J. Brooks tabled:

Report of the Tariff Board relative to the investigation ordered by the Minister of Finance respecting Tableware and Glassware for Decorating, Reference No. 129, dated April 13, 1962 (English and French texts), together with copy of the evidence taken during the investigation (English text), pursuant to section 6, chapter 261, R.S.C., 1952.

Report of the Canada Council 1961-62, including the Auditor General's Report on the financial statements of the council for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1962, pursuant to section 23 of the Canada Council Act, chapter 3, Statutes of Canada 1957. (English and French texts).

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NOTICE OF INQUIRY—USE OF OLD CARS

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, believe it or not, I was so busy this morning that I did not have the time to write down the simple question I intend to ask today, with your permission.

Some time ago the Canadian National Railways bought leftovers of the New York Central Railway. I refer to pullman cars of the Valrose type that are used east of Montreal, and they are the worst in existence on the system. The Canadian National Railways would never dare to use them west of Montreal, especially in the Toronto division, or anywhere else. It seems that these cars are good enough in the east, but they would be insufferable in the west.

My question is simple. I want to know:

- (1) How old are those cars?
- (2) When were they bought?
- (3) From whom were they bought?
- (4) How much was paid for them?
- (5) Are they used west of Montreal? If so, where?

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Honourable senators, I will take this as notice. I can assure the honourable senator that I am just as concerned as he that they do not use such cars in Quebec and the Maritime provinces, if they are not fit for the west.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: My fight is for the Maritimes as well as for Quebec.

SONS OF FREEDOM DOUKHOBORS IN CANADA

MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE—
DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. David A. Croll moved, pursuant to notice:

That a Special Committee of the Senate be appointed to inquire into and report upon the continuing problems presented by the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors in Canada and any problems related thereto;

That this said committee be composed of twenty honourable senators to be named later;

That the committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records; and

That the committee be instructed to report to the house from time to time its findings, together with such recommendations as it may see fit to make.

He said: Honourable senators, in moving the motion for the establishment of a special committee of the Senate to study the problems consequent upon the presence in Canada of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, may I say at first that I claim no special knowledge of and I am not an expert on this problem, yet I am appalled at the lack of knowledge of it, and I am distressed by the lack of interest by Canadians in it. It appears that Canadians just could not care less; but they should. After sixty years the Freedomites are still in Canada, but they are not part of it.

My purpose in moving this motion is not to lay blame or to be critical of the Government, but to create a real concern for and an interest in the Freedomite problem in the hope of finding some solution. I only know what I have read in the press, what I have heard on the radio, and what I have seen on television.

I have read the 1952 research committee report made by the province of British Columbia. I have read books on the subject and, recently, a few interesting ones. Moreover, I have always had a continuing interest in minority problems.

The Doukhobors came to Canada from Russia in 1899 under a special arrangement with the dominion Government. Originally 7,427 of them came in, and between the years 1900 and 1920 another 417 came in.

It is quite evident that they were in intermittent conflict with the state and clerical authorities in Russia and were dealt with very harshly. They sought refuge from tyranny, and well-disposed humanitarians in