

(Translation)

Mr. CARON: That is precisely what Mr. Beaulé suggested. Mr. Beaulé suggested that if they would tell us they intended to do so he was prepared to withdraw his motion, but they did not say they intended to do so, they said they did not know. In that case I do not see—

Mr. BEAULÉ: If they intend to do so—they cannot say so.

Mr. CARON: That's just it, they do not want to tell us. An honourable member said a while ago: "How can we establish that a man is French-speaking from the number of words?" I speak English, I can express myself in English but I cannot say that I am English-speaking because I do not speak the language sufficiently well. I make a lot of mistakes when I speak English. Then the matter of human rights was mentioned. I do not know what human rights have to do here. There are human rights to avoid mentioning it and there are also human rights so that one can mention it. The bill of rights entitles us to mention it if we wish to do so. We have been tricked so often in the past. I do not intend to say that we shall be tricked this year, in any case, as Mr. Fisher said, we shall know in the spring what they have done but it will be too late to correct things and I do not intend to correct things in the spring. Apart from that, someone mentioned "skill and ability", and that is precisely what I said a moment ago. There are French-Canadians with management ability. Usually in English companies they are obliged—we have had a proof of it since the Quebec government bought Quebec Hydro—we have built the largest dam in the world with French-Canadian engineers who previously had never been consulted by the English companies. We know all that. I think we should maintain this matter of at least two French-Canadians on the board.

(Text)

Mr. PETERS: It seems to me from the discussions we have had that we are really in effect amalgamating the Hull services as well as the central station services in this new terminal. For this reason I am prepared to support the motion. Really we are eliminating the Hull section of our normal transportation services. I therefore think this is a good and legitimate reason in this case for appointing French-speaking representatives who represent the Hull area which is being discontinued under the present service.

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, may I just say a word on the suggestions you have made?

As I understand this, I would be willing to support the expression of opinion by this committee that it would be desirable to have adequate French-speaking representation on the board of directors, but if we put this kind of an amendment in the bill what in effect is likely to be the practice is that there will only be two French-speaking directors. The practical effect of putting such an amendment in the legislation is apt to perpetuate a form of discrimination. I think all of us agree it should be eliminated. Therefore, I feel the motion as proposed by Mr. Caron is an unwise one and defeats the objective which he has in mind and with which I agree.

Mr. CARON: I said "at least two", but if we only have two we would be satisfied because we never had it before.

Mr. MACEWEN: I do not wish to be lengthy. I wish to speak on what Mr. Hahn has said with regard to amending the legislation. I agree with Mr. Barnett, and I would be willing to go along with an expression from this committee that full consideration be given to French-speaking Canadians being appointed to the board of directors.