

*Supply—Transport*

luggage this afternoon; and I thank Air Canada for its dispatch in this case. As for the form, the minister will understand that it was in English only—this could have happened to someone who might not have been as lucky.

But how often does one receive such forms written in English only, on trains on the Saguenay-Lake St. John line, up to Montreal or Quebec, in the Lower St. Lawrence region or elsewhere.

I agree, Mr. Chairman, that during the last three years, considerable effort has been made by those two large companies and I am disposed to give them the credit they deserve, but we must keep on asking so that the situation improve even more and that at least the crown corporations advocate integral and true bilingualism as it must exist in a country like Canada, which is officially bilingual.

If all civil servants within the Department of Transport and crown corporations, like Air Canada and the C.N.R., were as good in the two official languages as the Minister of Transport, then I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Transport and the Crown corporations have reached an acceptable degree of bilingualism.

I know that the Minister of Transport is one of the good bilingual members we have in this house. To prove this, I had the opportunity not very long ago to introduce to him two of my constituents. After their visit to the office of the Minister of Transport, they could not help mentioning that they had found him most pleasant and nice and that they had admired his fluent French.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Grégoire:** It is precisely this quality in the Minister of Transport that we should like to find at every level of the Department of Transport and the crown corporations coming under that department. It is this bilingualism which exists in the office of the minister and which he practices himself that we should like to find in every branch of the department.

I hope that the minister who understands the problem thoroughly will see to it that everything in his department, and especially in the Crown corporations, Air Canada and the C.N.R. is bilingual, not only on the surface but in depth and particularly within these two corporations because these are two transport companies stretching from coast to coast, where English and French speaking

Canadians meet. Citizens use transport companies from one end of the country to the other.

Well, Mr. Chairman, if we want Canadians to feel at home everywhere, these two companies must illustrate Aristotle's definition of "country". Aristotle said: Your country is where you feel at home.

If Canada is to be a country from coast to coast, you must feel at home from coast to coast from one ocean to another. That is why at least the transport companies which come directly under the Crown should be bilingual not only on the surface but also at all administrative levels.

Mr. Chairman, those are the few remarks which I wanted to make about the Department of Transport. I hope that the minister can assure us that the construction of the Bagotville air station will begin as soon as possible. I am making this request on behalf of the four ridings of the Saguenay-Lake St. John area.

**Mr. Langlois (Chicoutimi):** Thank you.

**Mr. Grégoire:** I think the hon. member for Chicoutimi will support the request I am now making on behalf of the four constituencies of the area I have mentioned.

I would also ask the Minister of Transport to make a statement on winter navigation on the Saguenay, on the improvements to the C.N.R. track between Montreal and the Saguenay-Lake St. John area and Chicoutimi. I know that the Minister of Transport is aware of these problems and that he will tell us shortly, or, better still, tonight what action he intends to take and when he intends to take it.

[*English*]

• (9:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Chairman, I trust members of the committee will extend to me the usual indulgence that they do to new members as they rise to lose their maidenhood. First of all, Mr. Chairman, through you I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Speaker on his appointment, and to express the deep respect I have come to have for that office and for the manner in which he has discharged his responsibilities. I also wish to extend to you similar congratulations and expressions of respect for the manner in which you have fulfilled that office during his absence from the chair.