

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** It is a Montreal firm.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** Is the name of the firm McDonald Currie and Co?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** The name of the auditor is Lalanne.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** De Lalanne.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** That is his name, but the honourable senator is asking the name of the firm.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** It is, I understand, McDonald Currie and Co.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** Why is not the name of the firm, rather than of the individual, inserted? The McDonald Currie firm are well-known auditors.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I do not know, but by whichever name it is called, the firm will do the work. If I remember rightly, the first time I saw a clause of this kind in these bills a Winnipeg man was named there. George A. Touche and Co. are the firm who actually do the work; and George A. Touche, who is named in the clause, is the head of that firm.

**Hon. Mr. Euler:** Is the contract with the individual or with his firm?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I do not know that.

**Hon. Mr. Euler:** I think it should be with the firm.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I believe it is with the individual, is it not?

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Yes. He is named in the bill.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** The discussion in the other place is reported in *Hansard* of August 7 this year, beginning at page 3176. A question in this connection was answered by the Minister of Finance, but the Minister of Transport made the recommendation, because the matter comes under his jurisdiction. An explanation was given at that time, and that is all there is to it.

**Hon. Mr. Lambert:** It may be brought out in committee.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** It can be brought up in committee.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Will the honourable the senior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Haig) give us some reasons why the firm of George A. Touche and Co., auditors for the last many years, are being discharged, and this new auditor is appointed in their place?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I can merely refer to the answer given by the Minister of Finance on

the floor of the other house, when the same question was asked. The honourable senator may look at page—

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** I am not interested in that. The honourable senator is the sponsor of the bill in this house.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** The minister felt that the honour, or the responsibility, should be passed around, that one firm should not hold the appointment forever. George A. Touche was appointed first in 1925. When the late Mr. Bennett became Prime Minister the appointment was continued. When Mr. Bennett was succeeded by the late Mr. King, another auditor was selected, and later the Touche firm were reappointed, and their appointment has been continued ever since.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** May I ask whether the present selection is the payment of an election debt?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** I hope it is, but I doubt it. Our fellows don't pay their debts that way.

**Hon. Mr. Hawkins:** How do they pay them?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** We prefer not to give contracts on buildings, to pay our debts that way. The point is, here is the bill, and I have given the reasons for it. I ask that it be sent to committee, so that any questions touching the financial items can be answered there. No one here can answer them. The figures I have referred to were supplied by the Canadian National Railways to the Government, who approved of them, and they are before the house. The tables were made up under my instructions, and the details of each item are given, as to how it is made up, how much has been paid, and what is owing.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Is there any urgency to this bill?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** No, except that the company representatives will be in attendance tomorrow.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** Will the President be here?

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** The President, and also the company's solicitor.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I cannot see any urgency. These men can come some other day.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** The urgency arises from the fact that money was voted only to the end of June, and the railway has no money left. This is a supply bill which must be put through. The amount voted last year to cover the remainder of 1957 and the first six months of 1958 is used up. So, I repeat, the period ended June 30, and the C.N.R. has no money. As a matter of fact—if the reporter won't