

*Privileges and Elections*

leader at page 3587 of *Hansard*. What prompted him to say that and on what authority did he say it? Was he suggesting that because I was not a member of the Liberal party but was a member of the opposition I had no right to move a resolution in the committee?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. McGrath:** Is that what he was suggesting? That has been the conduct of the Committees ever since. Any time an opposition member moves a resolution, confusion ensues. They say, "we cannot accept it", or they use tactics that prevent the resolution from coming to a vote. Is that the way the committees are to conduct themselves? We hoped that the house leader would have found an opportunity to appear before the committee.

**Mr. Cafik:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member has indicated that every time an opposition member makes a motion in a committee it is never allowed to come to a vote and is never accepted. I submit that this is simply untrue.

**Mr. McGrath:** My time is limited, Mr. Speaker, and I hope you will take into account the interruption of the hon. member who has risen on a pseudo point of order.

I submit that the house leader knew that this was a controversial matter because questions had been directed in the house on the first day of the present session to his colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer). He knew that this was a matter of some controversy, and I submit that he manoeuvred to keep the matter from coming before the house.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Now the hon. member is imputing motives to me when he says I manoeuvred the matter. I put it to the hon. member, is it not a fact that his colleague, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), acknowledged there was no necessity for me to appear before the committee?

**Mr. McGrath:** My colleague, the hon. member for Calgary North, does not have the authority to speak for me in this regard. He might have been expressing an opinion in the course of his examination but he certainly was not speaking for me.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Was it not agreed by the committee?

[Mr. McGrath.]

**Mr. McGrath:** No, it was not. If it was I withdraw agreement, but according to my recollection it was not because the subject came up at the last meeting of the committee.

**An hon. Member:** You had better read the minutes.

**Mr. McGrath:** I submit that the matter was of some urgency on November 28 because Canadian National Railways, under the authority of the Canadian Transport Commission, was to start implementing the decision to phase out the trains on December 6. The phasing in of the buses and the phasing out of the trains is now under way. My motion was urgent then but it is more urgent now. The Standing Committee on Transport and Communications is going to the Atlantic provinces on Sunday and will be visiting Newfoundland. Under its terms of reference it will be examining the transportation problems of the Atlantic provinces. Would it not have been better if this house had directed it to examine the decision of the C.N.R. and the authority given to it by the Canadian Transport Commission allowing it to phase out the passenger service?

We have heard a lot about delegated authority, but here there is to my mind a flagrant abuse of parliament. Are we to hand over the entire public transportation system and its future to the Canadian Transport Commission without allowing parliament a chance to voice its opinions thereon? Is that the way this country is to be governed? I submit to the house that public transportation built this country to what it is today, and it is still important. As a consequence, it is a matter of great concern to this house but not to a body of bureaucrats with delegated authority such as the Canadian Transport Commission.

**An hon. Member:** Another insult.

**Mr. McGrath:** If hon. members knew, as does the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Jamieson), how strongly the people of Newfoundland feel about this matter, if they knew how strongly the labour movement in Newfoundland feels about it, they would realize how important the rail passenger service is to the people of Newfoundland. I put it to hon. members that 57 per cent of the electorate voted against the Liberal party on June 25, and I suggest that this is one of the reasons. I point out to hon. members the experience with the buses travelling in Newfoundland this winter and the difficulties they have encountered in what has been a relatively mild winter. If hon. members knew this, they