

Supply—Transport

these pension amounts, that the railways must have given some attention to this matter. Can the minister tell us whether any consideration is being given by the company to increasing the basic pension of \$25, to providing a cost of living bonus of some sort, or to making any other changes in the pension set-up of Canadian National Railways?

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, Mr. Chairman, both the Canadian National Railways and the government have been giving this matter consideration over a period of time. Canadian National Railways have been discussing the matter with their employees, and what the position is at the moment I am unable to say. Through their president Canadian National Railways discussed it with me on several occasions during the course of the year, and on at least two occasions it has received the careful consideration of the government. I have to say that the government thus far has not been able to recommend or direct the Canadian National Railways to increase the basic pension upwards until such time as the matter of its own civil servants receives similar or adequate consideration. Then there is also the question of other groups that are in the same position as that of Canadian National pensioners.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Which are they?

Mr. Chevrier: There are other groups affected by inflation. There are a number of them. There are the pilots, other pension groups, the Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island Railway employees, the provident fund group and, as the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Veterans Affairs says, the old age pensioners themselves. It appears to me that this question cannot be disposed of piecemeal, and that until such time as it is possible to find a solution for the whole problem the government does not feel disposed thus far to direct the Canadian National Railways to deal with a portion only of the problem.

Mr. Knowles: In this connection do I take it that the minister is talking only about retired employees of Canadian National Railways already on pension, or does that apply to any revision of the pension plan for those who are still employed and paying into the various funds? I gathered from what the minister said that he is thinking of the group whose plight we have pressed most, namely, the retired railway pensioners on low pension. I take it from what he said

[Mr. Knowles.]

that their case stands on the same plane as that of the superannuated civil servants and others in similar situations.

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Mr. Knowles: Well, it is time for action for all of them.

Item stands.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: On Monday we will continue with the debate on the budget.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[The following items were passed in committee of supply]:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Canal services—

472. Administration, \$107,134.

473. Operation and maintenance, \$4,523,107.

474. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment, \$3,500,000.

475. To provide for expenses in connection with the St. Lawrence ship canal surveys and investigations, \$10,000.

Marine services—

476. Marine services, administration, including agencies, \$513,944.

Marine service steamers—

477. Administration, \$50,112.

478. Operation, maintenance and repairs, \$4,490,072.

479. Construction or acquisition of vessels, as detailed in the estimates—capital, \$2,254,800.

Aids to navigation—

480. Administration, operation and maintenance, \$4,215,904.

481. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment, \$692,540.

Nautical services—

482. Administration, \$152,950.

483. Operation and maintenance, including grants and contributions, as detailed in the estimates: rewards for saving life from vessels in distress; subsidies to salvage companies, and the payment of expenses, including excepted expenses, incurred in respect of Canadian distressed seamen as defined in section 296 of the Canada Shipping Act, \$390,591.

484. Construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and new equipment, \$21,500.

485. Pilotage service, including authority for temporary recoverable advances not exceeding \$13,000, \$367,363.

486. Steamship inspection and the carrying out of the provisions of the conventions for the safety of life at sea and load lines, \$461,408.

487. Marine signal service, \$173,981.