

Canadian National Railways

having a question period if we cannot meet the ministers or ask them questions?

[English]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to deal with that point too. It seems to me that whatever system we follow with regard to the question period it would be desirable for ministers, such as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to be able to participate in the way he is participating with his provincial colleagues. Although I agree he is not in the house today, I understand the meetings will be over on Friday, and that he will be in the house next Monday to respond to questions.

Mr. Caouette: That is the situation with regard to one minister, Mr. Speaker, but what about the other ministers who are missing today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I serve notice on the Minister of Defence Production, who is an infrequent visitor to the house, that I will be questioning him tomorrow on a matter of some urgency.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand the point of order has not been disposed of yet.

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I sent yesterday to the hon. Minister of Transport a notice of the question I intended to put to him today. In view of the fact that I cannot put it under the rules, I wish to give him notice that I will discuss it at ten o'clock, on the adjournment motion.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: This is insufficient notice according to the rules of the house.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ALBERTA
BRANCH LINE**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-109, respecting the construction of a line of railway in the province of Alberta by the Canadian National Railway Company from the vicinity of Windfall on the Windfall extension to the Sangudo subdivision of the

[Mr. Caouette.]

Canadian National Railway in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 51 miles to the Bigstone property of Pan American Petroleum Corporation and of a connecting spur extending in a northerly direction for a distance of approximately nine miles to the South Kaybob property of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Limited and its associates.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise not to debate the question on third reading, but surely the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), in a preliminary way at least, is going to answer many of the questions that were raised earlier during his absence, and which went unanswered?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Richardson) has taken responsibility for this bill. If there are any questions that he would care to reply to at this time, then I am sure this would be agreeable.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, all of the questions which were put were discussed thoroughly in committee, and I do not know of any that are outstanding at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) seems to be on his way out of the chamber so I suppose we are expected to agree to third reading of the bill, even although there are a number of points that have not been adequately dealt with. This is not the fault of the Acting Minister of Transport (Mr. Richardson). I do not for one moment suggest he could possibly be in a position to answer some of the proposals that were put to him the other day.

My colleague the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) and also the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) put to the acting minister the proposition that, within the terms of Bill No. C-109, provision should be made to require by statute that the Canadian National Railways, in the contracts that it enters into with road building and railway line contractors, should specifically recruit from the immediate area a certain percentage of the labour force required.

I know the Acting Minister of Transport said that in his personal opinion this would be a desirable course of action to take, but that was where the matter was left, Mr.