

Railways and Shipping Committee

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

170. Departmental administration, including grants as detailed in the estimates and the expenses of the international labour conferences (also includes the former Labour Gazette, women's bureau and manpower utilization votes), \$1,067,166.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

304. Departmental administration, \$1,886,095.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

112. Departmental administration, \$2,369,041.

Proceedings reported.

RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS
AND SHIPPING OWNED AND CONTROLLED
BY THE GOVERNMENT

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport) moved:

That a sessional committee on railways, air lines and shipping owned and controlled by the government be appointed to consider the accounts and estimates and bills relating thereto of the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, and Trans-Canada Air Lines, saving always the powers of the committee of supply in relation to the voting of public moneys; and that the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records and to report from time to time and that, notwithstanding standing order 67 in relation to the limitation of the number of members, the said committee to consist of Messrs. Bourbonnais, Brassard (Lapointe), Broome, Carter, Chevrier, Chown, Creaghan, Drysdale, Fisher, Fraser, Grills, Gundlock, Hardie, Kennedy, Loiselle, Martini, Mitchell, Monteith (Verdun), Pascoe, Robichaud, Robinson, Rowe, Rynard, Smith (Calgary South), Smith (Simcoe North) and Tasse.

He said: This motion, Mr. Speaker, is to appoint, as has been the practice for many years, a sessional committee to consider the accounts of the Canadian National Railways, Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships, and Trans-Canada Air Lines.

The house will have noted that the name of the committee has been changed to include air lines. In addition to examining the accounts of the Canadian National the committee has also gone into the affairs of Trans-Canada Air Lines since the incorporation of that company, and it seems only appropriate that the name should take cognizance of air lines, and thus be more descriptive of the duties of the committee.

If it is the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion, it is my intention later today to ask leave to move that the Canadian National and Trans-Canada Air Lines' reports and the auditor's reports which have already been tabled be referred to the committee, together with the items of estimates that are usually dealt with by the committee.

public streets. Nor is there any doubt they will be spotted in the galleries when the president speaks. But whether they will be packing side arms in the house is something no one in authority seems prepared to disclose at the moment.

The Prime Minister's press secretary, Jim Nelson, asked whether the secret servicemen would be permitted to bring arms into the building, gave this surprising answer:

"I don't know. You'd better ask Jim Hagerty". Hagerty is the president's press secretary. Dutifully called, Mr. Hagerty didn't know either, although he promised to provide an answer later, which was more than any Canadian official promised.

We sincerely hope that these reports are incorrect, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Why don't you find out whether or not they are?

Mr. Herridge: It just so happens the reports are written by very responsible correspondents, and I am sure in good faith. If these reports are correct—

Mr. Graffey: Why don't you find out?

Mr. Herridge: We suggest that if these reports are correct action be taken to make certain the rights of this parliament will be respected, and the usages and traditions of the Canadian people.

Now, in comparison with this, and before concluding, I want to bring to the attention of the members that when Her Majesty visited Canada, when the prime ministers of Great Britain visit Canada and when the heads of other states visit Canada, with the exception of one Scotland Yard inspector or some other security official, according to the best information I can obtain from reliable sources, they are quite willing to leave their security outside and inside these buildings to the capacity and efficiency of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In conclusion, I want to say this. I have raised this question on behalf of this group in this house at this time, and I am quite confident on behalf of a great number of Canadians who will welcome President Eisenhower to Canada but who are concerned about actions of this type undertaken by secret service agents of the government of the United States. Because of our concern for our Canadian traditions, our usages and rights which spring from Magna Carta and flow to this parliament, we trust this matter will be investigated, and if the reports are true the necessary action will be taken to protect those rights, traditions and usages.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Outrageous mischief.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rea in the chair.

The estimates of the following departments were first taken up and entered for consideration: