

men who are working on the railroad, it will be in for trouble.

When you go to Saskatoon people ask, "Why did the CNR sell the hotel in Saskatoon?" We have been given no answers. I wrote to the Minister of Transport 10 days ago, but he did not even have the courtesy to answer my letter and tell me why the CNR sold its hotel in Saskatoon. The citizens of Saskatoon are asking this question. The minister has not answered, I suspect, because he does not know. Apparently the CNR can build a needle in Toronto, but it cannot maintain the single hotel it had in Saskatoon.

**An hon. Member:** The city of Toronto got the needle.

**Mr. Gleave:** The city of Toronto said it would have the needle. I suspect the people there are right. However, that is an example of the kind of indifference displayed both to the railroaders and other citizens in my constituency, and no amount of rhetoric on the part of the volatile Minister of Transport will cover that indifference and contempt which have been shown and which are still evident here tonight. The government will have to do better than that.

As has been said before, the government has brought the farm economy of western Canada to a standstill. Grain is not moving. The elevators are full. Feeder cattle are moving south to the United States because there is no means for moving them east in Canada. The government has slapped export controls on fat beef and pork which would move to the United States, and has not considered what ought to be done now that rail transportation is at a standstill. One wonders if ministers really know what is going on and what the people of Saskatchewan are really thinking. There is a foul-up in the feed grain market, to such an extent that no one knows what the real basis of pricing is.

**An hon. Member:** Otto knows.

**Mr. Lang:** It is up 30 cents.

**Mr. Gleave:** You know, when we asked the minister responsible for the Wheat Board and the Minister of Agriculture to appear last night, they did not appear.

**Mr. Lang:** Where?

**Mr. Gleave:** In this House. I am not surprised that the minister did not know that. That is part and parcel of this government's total indifference. It slapped an 18-month freeze on freight rates, without regard for what is to happen, because it was too damn much trouble to consider freight rates item by item, and policies item by item, to see what would happen if certain things are done.

**Mr. Lang:** Are you against the freeze?

**Mr. Gleave:** It is like the freeze of the Conservatives. They propose a freeze on over-all pricing.

**Mr. Lang:** Are you against this one?

**Mr. Gleave:** It is like taking a sledgehammer to swat a fly.

**Mr. Lang:** But this is not a fly.

### *Railway Operations Act*

**Mr. Gleave:** Let me say this about the pension program, Mr. Chairman, if this House can persuade the minister to carry out a full investigation into the pension plan of the CNR, it would be doing something useful. I will tell him what the railroaders of my constituency say and think. They think the CPR exercises a veto over any move that the CNR makes with regard to pensions. That may be true, or it may not be true. I think they are right. That is what those people think, Mr. Chairman. If the minister and his assistant from London, Ontario, do not know this, I am very surprised. I think most of the railroaders know it, and they will tell you if you ask them.

We want to get away from the situation in which a private company which is not responsible to the people, but which has received millions of dollars from the taxpayers of Canada, exercises a veto against policies that this government or parliament may set with regard to Canadian National Railways, which is owned and financed by the people of Canada.

I see that the Minister of Transport has left the chamber. I do not think it matters much. He was not paying attention. Anyway, he does not answer letters. I do not think he gives a damn about what happens in western Canada anyway.

**An hon. Member:** Certainly he cares. The government cares.

**Mr. Gleave:** If it cares, why did the CNR sell the only hotel it had in Saskatoon, eh? How much did the friends of hon. members opposite pay for the hotel? That is what the people of Saskatoon would like to know. When will you tell us how much your friends paid for the hotel? When will members opposite come forward with records, because we are waiting to find out? And do not be so sure that the people of Saskatchewan are going to forget. They are not going to forget. You ignored the people. You refused to put the item before the Standing Committee on Transportation so even that committee cannot find out the facts. You do not want us to know the facts because you cannot bear to see them exposed to the public. I am saying to you in this House what I intend to say out on the hustings, so be ready to answer.

• (2020)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my modest contribution to the consideration of the bill before the House.

That bill is designed to bring railway workers back to work as soon as possible. Indeed, I think that the consequences of that dispute have been assessed in many ways, sometimes with partisanship, sometimes very objectively.

I believe, like all hon. members, that it is unfortunate that the government should have to legislate on such a matter. All hon. members nevertheless have respect for the worker, regardless of what some here may think, who believe that they alone are interested in safeguarding the interests of the worker. I think that all members want to give workers their fair share and do them justice. Of course, it is easy to play politics with such a debate. The Standing Orders of the House specifically allow members