

Interim Supply

of that ship. Many thousands of dollars will have to be spent in addition to the amount now authorized.

I am gratified by the response we are receiving from across this country to the request that the *Grande Hermine* be permanently berthed at Gaspé. The boards of trade in the lower St. Lawrence area, and all public bodies there including the junior board of trade of Quebec City, have endorsed our plea that the decision of the government in this regard be rescinded. I do not know how the government is going to resist this pressure or how it is going to disassociate itself from those who are only interested in the golden mile. It will have to disassociate itself eventually and give each of these regions in Quebec their traditional rights.

I do not wish to take up any more of the time of the committee, but I hope that the Postmaster General will consult with the Minister of Transport to study the possibility of retaining mail service by railway. Even if that were the only justification for the service, it should be established, but it would at the same time give better passenger facilities to those who so desperately require it.

I hope those who are interested in the history of our country, and wish to see justice done, will join with all those who are working so hard to make sure the birthplace of Canada is recognized by berthing this ship at Gaspé.

Mr. Prud'homme: May I ask the hon. member a question?

[Translation]

Mr. Keays: Certainly.

Mr. Prud'homme: Could I ask him the following question: Which government decided to build the *Grande Hermine* and, second, who decided that it should be moored in Quebec City?

Mr. Keays: Mr. Chairman, I have never spoken of dates nor decisions and I do not want to make a political issue out of it, it is only a matter of justice for the citizens of the Gaspé peninsula, and that is what I am striving for.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member would like the government to rectify an injustice.

Mr. Keays: Mr. Chairman, if my hon. friend had been in the house, when I first spoke about this matter—

Mr. Prud'homme: I was here, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Keays: Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend can simply refer to my speech and to the dates which I mentioned when this matter was dealt with.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Chairman, I shall only take a few minutes to answer the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Keays) who raised the problem of mail transportation in the Gaspé peninsula.

I am very pleased to note that the hon. member for Gaspé appreciates the improvements that the Post Office Department wishes to make in the mail service for the Gaspé peninsula.

Since the mail service between Campbellton and Gaspé no longer meets the requirements of post office patrons, due to train schedules, the department had to resort to highway transportation in order to provide a more adequate postal service in that area.

Therefore, instead of getting the mail at 7.30 p.m. by train 246, from now on Gaspé will get it at 1 p.m. and 4.15 p.m., by two express truck routes between Campbellton and Gaspé. In order to keep to their schedule, those trucks will stop only at the main post offices, including Carleton, at 6.10 a.m. and 10.45 a.m., New Carlisle, at 8.30 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. and Chandler, at 10.15 a.m. and 2 p.m. The local truck between Chandler and Gaspé will reach Gaspé at 5.30 p.m.

It goes without saying that the truck service which has been operating on the north shore of the peninsula for the past few years will continue to serve Gaspé, reaching that point at 5 p.m. This highway transportation system will involve four separate contracts, —which the hon. member read some time ago—which will be allocated by tender to area residents, for a total approximate cost of \$100,000 a year, an income that people in the Gaspé peninsula will derive under our new system.

• (5:30 p.m.)

The C.N.R., when informed of our intention to change our mail transportation system, had no reaction whatsoever. But there is one sure thing: if the people of the Gaspé peninsula are not satisfied with their present mail service nor with the service provided by the C.N.R., they will be happier about the service to be provided to them by the Post Office Department shortly.

Mr. Keays: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the hon. minister.

Is the hon. minister concerned about the \$100,000 which will be paid to five or six