

Mr. REGAN: Perhaps I am dealing in repetition, Mr. Macdougall, but I would like to clarify for the benefit of all the committee, since we are discussing this aspect of it, and say that I presume in deciding upon the location of the new station there were consultations between the railways and the National Capital Commission. Is that accurate?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Yes.

Mr. REGAN: I also presume that in determining the location you took into consideration accessibility to the largest portion of the population in the Ottawa area and that the Queensway passing by was a factor in the location.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I am sure that was so.

Mr. REGAN: I also presume that your railway would have had considerable experience in determining accessibility and the best locations from that point of view in other cities where you have made changes; is that accurate?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Yes, we have studied the same problem in other locations.

Mr. REGAN: On the basis of your experience would you agree with my conclusion that the new location of the station is much better from the point of view of getting to the station for the great mass of the population of this city than the present location?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I think when you think of it in terms of time and compensation at the station that is quite right. It should be easier for people to get to it and from it and to move about the station when they get there. It is not going to be so confined; there will be more space to manoeuvre at the station and it will be easier to get to and from it.

Mr. REGAN: In other words, having the station in the heart of the downtown business district as in the present situation—not recognizing the manner in which this city has grown and is likely to continue to grow—would be like having a station in London alongside Buckingham Palace?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: It does not necessarily mean that because a station is in the centre of the city it is the best location for all the people who use the railway.

(Translation)

Mr. BEAULÉ: Mr. Chairman, we have been allowed to talk about Saskatoon and Lachine and I hope you will allow me to talk about Quebec too. But before doing so I would like to ask Mr. Macdougall if he intends to establish a service like the one at the airports to carry passengers from the station to the centre of the city at a reasonable price.

The CHAIRMAN: Where?

Mr. BEAULÉ: At the new station here in Ottawa.

(Text)

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I do not think it is the normal practice of the railway to provide free transportation for its passengers from the railway terminal to any particular point.

(Translation)

Mr. BEAULÉ: Mr. Chairman, I did not say anything about free transportation. I asked that a transport system be established at the station in the centre of the city, such as there is at the airports, at a minimum price.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Beaulé, other members have asked the same question. I referred them to section 10 which we shall deal with later on.