

*Canadian National Railways*

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I still doubt that. I still cannot see why it is necessary.

Mr. KNOWLES: Just on the point of what we are doing, and for the moment not commenting on whether it is right or wrong, does this not mean that we would be laying down the policy that year by year the government would have the authority to pay over such moneys as the railway or the air line might need, without waiting in that year until parliament had actually appropriated the money?

Mr. JACKMAN: That is right.

Mr. KNOWLES: Then having done that, the government would come before parliament some time during the year, either with a bill or an item in the estimates and ask parliament to vote the specific amount which the government had already turned over to the railways. Would we not as a parliament still have the right to refuse to vote that money in any year, if the majority of the house felt so inclined?

Mr. LOCKHART: It may have been paid.

Mr. BELZILE: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has put it clearly. That is a correct interpretation of the clause.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I report the resolution?

Mr. BRACKEN: No. Are you sure, Mr. Chairman, that the resolution has been passed?

The CHAIRMAN: I should report it.

Mr. BRACKEN: Unless you have declared it passed, Mr. Chairman, I would urge that, since it is almost one o'clock, the parliamentary assistant take the noon hour to give the matter further consideration. I do not feel disposed at the moment to accept this new policy, where we would say for all time to come we give power to the government to provide for deficits of these railways and subsidiary enterprises. Obviously that situation will be met, and probably will be cared for in this way. I do object however to the tying of parliament's hands for years to come by action we would take now. It does not need to be done in that way. Action can be taken each year, at which time the activities of the different organizations can be brought before parliament and discussed in the house.

I suggest that the parliamentary assistant give further consideration to this matter, particularly the expression "if at any time in any year". That is the phraseology to which objection has been taken.

[Mr. Belzile.]

Mr. BELZILE: I can only repeat what I said earlier, that provision is made in the resolution whereby, if there is a deficit, the government will have to come back to parliament, explain the situation, and have a special appropriation put through to finance such deficit.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I hope the parliamentary assistant will accept the suggestion of my leader, because I still feel that it is merely a mistake, and that it would be inconsistent with the rest of the provisions.

I should like to turn back to the Trans-Canada Air Lines and ask two or three questions with respect to that organization. I believe however it would be somewhat unfair to ask the parliamentary assistant, because I do not imagine he is familiar with the details. I wish to know about rentals, and various other expenditures. I should like to have the entire picture of expenses of Trans-Canada Air Lines, so that I might know whether the deficit which is shown is in any sense a real deficit. Perhaps I might go ahead and ask my questions now, or it may be that I should ask them of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Meantime my first question would be this—and I shall put the others later: I wish to know in particular what rentals they pay for the various airports. Then, in general, I wish to know what expenditures of Trans-Canada Air Lines either directly or indirectly are paid by the use of other government money.

Mr. BELZILE: I do not believe the hon. member's question would come under this resolution. Perhaps I might point out that the deficit of Trans-Canada Air Lines was placed before the house in March of this year.

The CHAIRMAN: It does occur to me that the financial arrangements in connection with the operations of Trans-Canada Air Lines might more properly come under the Department of Transport. That has already been submitted to the committee. I doubt if it is in order to discuss those details at this time.

Mr. KNOWLES: Mr. Chairman, when your assistant was in the chair a while ago some of us pointed out that although civil aviation matters come under the Department of Transport, the responsibility for Trans-Canada Air Lines by order in council is still under the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The two relevant items in each of those departments, those of general administration, have yet to be passed. My suggestion, in which there was