

*Transportation*

cabinet is reshuffled to provide for an associate minister of transport to share the duties in this very important field.

• (6:10 p.m.)

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Prittie), particularly those about politics in transportation and government. The minister mentioned this subject originally and I think it is fair to discuss it now. I see nothing wrong with politics in transportation or politics in this house if you consider politics, as it is properly defined, to be the science of government. I believe that what the hon. member and the editorial which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* had in mind is that this government, with tremendous enthusiasm and zeal and great attention to detail, has in its inimitable way taken the science out of government.

Be that as it may, I feel, as does the hon. member who has just taken his seat, that we must be very cautious at this stage of this bill because of its great detail. I commend the government for reaching out toward a new concept which has been spoken of by royal commissions for many years, particularly because of the new and sensational innovations which are contemplated.

At this point I find it difficult to vote in favour of this measure on second reading and I must express my opinions at this time as being without prejudice. We must observe what develops as a result of committee hearings and we must be entitled to see what impact this policy may have in dollars and cents on various industries and various regions of the country before coming to any conclusion whether or not it will help to make a greater and better country.

I am sure we are going to receive a very considerable amount of expert evidence during our committee hearings. We will be able to ask factual questions and get factual answers. That is the forum where this should take place. If as a result the government's contentions are in fact borne out I can say without equivocation that I am prepared to forsake without prejudice my position and give support to the bill.

In any event I do have some reservations at this time and I think this is the proper opportunity to ventilate them. In that way I think I should remark upon the statement made by the minister during the course of the speech by the hon. member for

[Mr. Prittie.]

Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) and later on during the speech of the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson) as to the government's willingness to take a position of flexibility regarding this bill and to accept certain changes which the opposition may recommend. I realize that the government's experience in respect of collective bargaining during the last two or three months has not been happy, but I do hope it will adopt a collective bargaining attitude toward the opposition rather than use compulsory arbitration.

I wish to direct the major portion of my few remarks toward the subject of a super body or commission and its composition. At this time I am not prepared to take the firm position that the composition of the commission, being 17 members, is objectionable, but I do see some ground upon which one can argue that its forms and procedures are objectionable. I will reserve my judgment in this regard. We must wait until it has been in operation for some period of time before we know whether or not it can work efficiently.

At this time there are some aspects of this subject to which I think I can take exception. I am wondering whether it is proper to give appellate jurisdiction to the board, which is contrary to the present act. During the course of our very interesting discussion this morning, and I am happy the government made available some of its knowledgeable senior civil servants, there was a comment made to the effect that because of the variety of viewpoints which would be represented on the commission there would be a cross-fertilization of ideas. There was also mention made of research facilities and functions.

I fear that this research aspect of the commission will in the end result in such an impregnation of the entire commission, if I may carry on the analogy of cross-fertilization, that the ideas which will flow from it in the form of orders and recommendations to the government, ultimately to be reflected in legislative measures, will all be cut out of the same cloth and that there will not be within the four corners of the commission that variation of opinions or that new and completely distinct approach which any appellate division must have if it is going to carry out its functions successfully. In other words, not only the formal but informal discussions which will take place from time to time among the 17 members, having in mind the studies on which they will base their actions and orders, will be affected by this research