

Provision of Moneys to CNR and Air Canada

rail service in the Trois-Rivières area be maintained, that they operate an additional train during Expo, when I was given all sorts of reasons and finally no satisfaction at all.

There are limits to what one can get out of a city as the one I represent which is the main centre of an area. Actually, mention is made of the possible abandonment of some other services. I will not deal now with the subject because it would not be in order. However, I would not want the air transportation service to be discontinued.

I hope that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) will consider favorably the request of the citizens in my riding and that he will see fit to argue our case with the Canadian Transport Commission which is now considering the application made by Air Canada for cancellation of its air service in Trois-Rivières.

[English]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious from listening to members from all parties in this debate that if this bill was permitted to be voted on in the form of a free vote, Canadian National Railways and Air Canada would have to look somewhere else for their finances; they would not get them with the approval of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Mongrain) is the last of a number of Liberals who have been critical of the CNR and Air Canada. Members of all three opposition parties—

Mr. Mongrain: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to hurt the feelings of the hon. member opposite but he just said "Three Rivers", which constituency does not exist.

Mr. Orlikow: I apologize to the hon. member. If he wants his city to be called Trois Rivières, he is entitled to that. Unfortunately, some of us did not have the opportunity of growing up in a part of the country in which both English and French were spoken regularly. I admit a failure on my part to be able to speak French as I would like to, but I have tried to understand the problems of Quebec and on occasion I have spoken in a way which has brought commendation from at least some people in Quebec.

With the change in our rules, and sending the estimates of the Department of Transport to committee, this bill is really the only

[Mr. Mongrain.]

opportunity which members have to discuss in the House the problems of transportation in all forms. In a country as large as Canada, one of the largest in the world and one which is sparsely populated, transportation is probably more important to its people than it is to people in other countries.

Since I came to the House of Commons in 1962 there have been many debates on the problems of transportation. Several years ago the transport committee met for many months to work on the drafting of a new bill, the passage of which we hoped would begin to sort out the problems of transportation, giving us a co-ordinated system of transportation in which air, rail, bus, trucks and ferry boats, I suppose, would be used in the most efficient way to provide this country with the kind of modern transportation system which we require.

● (9:00 p.m.)

It was proposed that a new regulatory body be set up, the Canadian Transport Commission. I remember that my former colleague, the then hon. member for Selkirk and now Premier of Manitoba, sat on that committee. After the committee had met for months and made extensive changes to the original draft bill, he came into this House with more than 20 amendments. Incorporated in those amendments were the proposals which had been made by the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the wheat pool, farmers unions and other interested organizations, but not accepted by the government.

We passed that bill, Mr. Speaker. We got a new transport commission and a new transport Czar, a former top civil servant and cabinet minister, Mr. Jack Pickersgill. He was appointed chairman, at a salary of \$40,000 a year or more. It seems that the more things have changed and the more legislation we have passed, the more things are the same. We in parliament and the people of Canada from one end of the country to the other are still facing the same problems.

I say to the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Peddle), who just made an effective presentation on behalf of his province, that if he looks at the record of sessions prior to his coming here, he will see that he and his group are not the first to have raised the question of transportation. I remember that when Canadian Pacific Railway dispensed with the "Dominion" transcontinental, their second main train, I predicted in this House it would not be very long before the CPR would be coming back asking