

In other words, does Mr. Knowles feel that the statutory Crowsnest pass agreement would be better taken out so that, in effect, the grain growers would have perhaps to see what cost they would be bearing to transport the grain; and then consider whether parliament should be applying a subsidy to them.

Mr. HEES: I think, Mr. Chairman, that is a question of government policy and it is not one on which it is fair to ask Mr. Knowles to give an opinion. He is here to give specific information on rates, and so on. The Crowsnest pass rates are a matter of government policy, and always have been.

Mr. FISHER: Has Mr. Knowles any idea on this. If the Crowsnest pass rates had not been in effect, grain rates would have come up comparably, perhaps, with other rates. Has Mr. Knowles any idea what additional revenues, each or both, of the railways would have obtained?

For example, the magazine "Saturday Night" made an estimate. They said that if the rates had gone up, the C.P.R. last year, in 1958, would have got some \$58 million.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I think that if the minister will tell us the royal commission will cover this matter, that probably will answer the question.

Mr. HEES: I will never trespass on the Prime Minister's prerogative, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Oh, it is yours.

Mr. HEES: He will be announcing it.

Mr. CHEVRIER: When?

Mr. HEES: Soon.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Well, we have had that answer now for three weeks.

Mr. HEES: It is still just as good as it was in the first instance.

Mr. DRYSDALE: Could we get Mr. Knowles' comments, before he forgets, or before the minister forgets?

Mr. KNOWLES: My comment is, I do not think it is a question that I should answer, with all due respect to the committee.

Mr. DRYSDALE: As a commissioner, do you find that having the Crowsnest pass agreement and the maritime freight rates gives a fair rate structure across Canada?

Mr. KNOWLES: My trouble is this. I am a commissioner authorised to deal with the law as it stands today and as it is laid down for me. Other commissioners are required to do the same thing. I cannot express an opinion on a matter that might come up as a matter of controversy. I cannot express it here, because I would have to hear all the evidence and all the facts before I could even make a comment on it.

Mr. DRYSDALE: Has the minister any comments?

Mr. HEES: No.

Mr. FISHER: Is it true that one of the commissioners at least—Mr. Chase—has made a statement with regard to the statutory rates and has said it was time that parliament reappraised the whole thing?

Mr. KNOWLES: He did.

Mr. FISHER: When did he make that statement?

Mr. KNOWLES: In the same case.

Mr. FISHER: So that in effect commissioners have commented on the same situation?

Mr. KNOWLES: Well, I would not have followed Mr. Chase.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Chairman, may I follow that up perhaps with one question? In these applications, as well as in the subsidy, is it not a fact