

Mr. GORDON: I can only say that the railway has made its submission to the royal commission, and therefore the next step is a matter for the government, and I think the minister is the one to comment on it.

Mr. GILLIS: What measures of relief did they recommend? I have read the report of the royal commission and I certainly remember the recommendations made by Mr. Gordon for a complete revision of the capital structure and for some relief from that interest debt. But I did not see anything in the report of the royal commission that I would interpret as being a measure of relief.

Mr. GORDON: Oh yes, there is a definite recommendation.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: If my friend will read the chapter in the report dealing with the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways, chapter 6, at page 180, he will see there the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Transportation. They are pretty lengthy and fairly complicated. I do not think you will expect me to go into them here. But with respect to your question of what progress has been made, the President of the Canadian National Railways has stated in his report that he hopes that something will come out of these recommendations in 1952, and all I can say is that the government has given, and is still giving careful consideration to the recommendations of the royal commission. Whether or not it will be possible to incorporate any or all of them, I am not in a position to say at this time. All I can say is that we are giving them careful consideration and I hope that before the session is over it will be possible to bring in a bill that will meet, in part at least, if not entirely, the recommendations that the Canadian National Railways have been asking for over a period of years, for relief from their capital structure.

Mr. GILLIS: I hope that the government has something definite in mind. I read the report of the royal commission as well as its recommendations, and as you say I think they are ambiguous, complicated, and mixed up; and in trying to sort them out, I could not see very much relief in it. But I will take the word of the minister for it.

Mr. MACDONNELL: He did not say that.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: I would like to follow Mr. Macdonnell's point and ask my friend not to put words in my mouth which I have not said. I did not say that the recommendations were complicated and ambiguous; but I did say they were difficult matters.

Mr. GILLIS: Oh, that is right; I added that.

The CHAIRMAN: Knowing Mr. Gillis' deep interest in that problem I allowed him to jump, as you noticed, to page 19 of the report.

Mr. GILLIS: No. It is right here in this review.

The CHAIRMAN: You will find the details are dealt with on page 19, under the heading of "Royal Commission on Transportation", and "Recapitalization". Are there any further questions, or shall I declare the item carried?

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, if you will kindly permit me; the recommendations of the royal commission may be ambiguous, but the legislation sponsored by the Minister of Transport is always well drafted, and he is able to understand it.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: Thank you, Mr. Pouliot!

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions then on "Royal Commission on Transportation", and "Recapitalization"? If not, I shall declare the items carried.

Mr. FULTON: Wait a moment, Mr. Chairman. Could we not wait until we come to them?