

good thing for free enterprise to dispense with his services. I think it would probably be in the interests of Canada to dispense with the services of any man who gives an explanation of that kind for the ill treatment of a faithful servant of this country.

I protest against the manner in which a bill of this importance has been brought before this house, with a statement of fact that makes it almost impossible for us to give the measure proper reading and attention, or to prepare speeches which a measure that would hand over millions upon millions deserves. I am not protesting against the amounts which the bill would vote; I do not know whether they are too much or too little. Before the bill arrives I cannot decide whether it is or is not a fit bill to be passed. I would like time to consider and study it.

Honourable senators, I have made my speech under these difficult circumstances, and I am not going to move adjournment of the debate.

Hon. David A. Croll: Honourable senators, I am going to be a little bolder.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Go to it.

Hon. Mr. Croll: I have heard these protests made by various speakers from this side of the house from time to time. At the last session I even protested when the very distinguished honourable gentleman who introduced this bill laid it on the line and said, "You pass this bill, or else." I gagged a bit at such a statement from a man who has great experience and is highly esteemed. He talked today about urgency, but my distinguished seatmate (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), has pointed out that there is no urgency. The company, though supposedly it ran out of money on the first of July, has been able to operate ever since, and this despite the fact that, like the rest of us here, I do not pay the C.N.R. very much when I travel; so, though it cannot rely on me for the money it needed, it has managed to get by. What troubles me is that the chickens are coming home to roost. A couple of weeks ago, when a bill was introduced on behalf of trust and loan companies, an honourable senator who is present this evening said that witnesses in connection with the bill would be here the following morning—the very same statement—and the witnesses came; and subsequently I protested, and was vehement in my protestations. I did not get any support from either side of the house; only two of us protested; and we are here again tonight under much the same circumstances. Despite our protests, we are told much the same thing—that the President of the company and his officers will be here tomorrow. That is all very well, but if I had

my way I would telephone them not to come tomorrow. I move adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I am sorry that the honourable senator has made this motion, and I would like him to withdraw it. The bill was given first reading last Thursday; and there followed all the rest of that day, and Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday until this evening.

Hon. Mr. Croll: I want the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) to understand that I have no objection to this bill. I have been a supporter of the Canadian National Railways and the principle of public ownership ever since I was in knee pants. What I am protesting against is being told that this bill must have second reading tonight. I am saying "Curfew shall not ring tonight". And that is my answer.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Will the honourable senator from Toronto-Spadina (Hon. Mr. Croll) withdraw his motion? I find myself in a very difficult position.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Perhaps the honourable senator who has made the motion to adjourn might reconsider it. I feel on this subject almost as strongly as he does. As I said in my opening remarks, I am amazed at the statement that the bill must be passed tomorrow, although the company, even if apparently out of money, has been operating the railway and everybody has been paid since the first of July. I cannot see any urgency whatsoever about this bill. But in view of the fact that the honourable Leader of the Government, I presume, takes the responsibility—

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The witnesses wanted to come yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: In view of the fact that the Leader of the Government has called these witnesses for tomorrow, and it might be personally embarrassing to him if they were not heard, and also as the honourable senator from Toronto-Spadina (Hon. Mr. Croll) is not opposed to the bill, perhaps he might consent to have it receive second reading tonight. Then, after having heard what the officials of the railways have to say tomorrow, he may be better informed on the bill when it comes back here for third reading; he may even find himself opposed to it. In any event he will then have obtained considerably more information than he has tonight.

Hon. Mr. Croll: Honourable senators, I repeat that I am not opposed to the bill; I am opposed to the method by which it is sought to expedite it. I do not want to embarrass the honourable Leader of the Government.