

Mr. Gordon, of course, it is no surprise to me. He has been on this for some years now and he is in perfect possession of all the details of the Canadian National Railways.

So I would like to join with you, Mr. Chairman, in extending to him and his officials our thanks for the excellent manner in which he has presented these excellent reports to us.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could make a comment. I see, much to my surprise, that the committee will sit on Wednesday evening from eight o'clock on and I think, although I may be wrong, that is in error. I doubt very much if the committee has the power to sit on Wednesday evening when the house is not sitting.

The CHAIRMAN: No, I think it may be an error.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am sure the committee would appreciate it if we were not sitting on Wednesday from 8.00 to 10.00.

The CHAIRMAN: We have the power to sit when the house is not sitting, of course, as well as when it is sitting, Mr. Chevrier, but whether we have the power to sit on a Wednesday night I do not know that it would be desirable.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Well, I do not want to argue the point whether we have the power or not. I do not think we have, but the point I was making is, I do not think this committee has ever sat in the past on Wednesday evenings.

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): The question may be hypothetical because all we have to deal with is T.C.A. now and by tomorrow afternoon I hope we will be finished with them.

Mr. FISHER: Is it not your pleasure to bring before us some independent witnesses?

Mr. SMITH (*Simcoe North*): I have no plans.

The CHAIRMAN: We have a plan to sit at 3.30 this afternoon and tonight and tomorrow morning and afternoon. I am rather optimistic enough to assume we will not have to sit Wednesday night.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Then my point is not well taken.

The CHAIRMAN: Well taken, but it might not be needed.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Could we get assurance from the chairman that if we are not through we will not sit Wednesday evening?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, all right. I have given Mr. Chevrier assurance that we will not sit tomorrow night, but we have here items 431, 432, 442 and 443. They are details that are not passed in this.

Mr. CHEVRIER: We can do that this afternoon.

Mr. GORDON: Mr. Chairman, in addition to any of these items will my presence be required?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think so. No. 431 is Prince Edward Island ferry, and 432 is the Newfoundland ferry and terminals, 442 is the Maritime Freight Rates Act, 635 is the West Indies Steamships Limited main estimates.

Mr. CHEVRIER: They are all Canadian National Railways items, but the minister is familiar with them.

The CHAIRMAN: He asked if we wanted him here or not.

Mr. CHEVRIER: It is not up to me to decide that.

The CHAIRMAN: If I may make a suggestion that we carry on these items at 3.30 and seeing that they do touch on Canadian National Railways if you do not mind you could come back this afternoon.

Mr. GORDON: We will be here.