

*Supply—Transport*

that under these circumstances because I know that these lines were under active consideration when we were in office, and I hope that they are still under active consideration. I would appreciate it if, under this vote which is for \$51 million, the minister would go beyond the ordinary answer of government policy being announced in due course, and make a statement which I am sure the whole house would appreciate.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I regret that I am not in a position to make a comment on policy in reference to particular lines that are proposed to be constructed. There will be an opportunity for that, as that is the sort of subject that is always discussed in the special committee later in the session.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Unfortunately I have not, in the last few years, been privileged to be a member of the committee to which the representatives of the Canadian National attend. The Minister of Finance will recall that on January 21 I raised the question of the revision of the Canadian National pension schedule. It seemed obvious that the matter I raised there, which did involve discussions between management and the unions, was not of such consequence that the Minister of Transport was informed about it. He replied on January 22. However, I would imagine that if a revision of the pension scheme of sufficient consequence to involve the expenditure of money were contemplated, it would come to the notice of the Minister of Finance.

He of course remembers the great interest that was always taken by the Prime Minister in this particular matter. He always asserted that the Canadian National management was prepared to revise the schedule, but that the then minister of finance was standing in the way. I wonder whether at the present time the Minister of Finance is close to any representations from the management or from the employees, advocating a revision, particularly in the minimum pension, as has been discussed on many occasions in the past by the present Prime Minister?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I take it my hon. friend is referring to the pension scheme now in effect for the employees who are actually engaged in the service of the company, and not the question of the pensions of employees who were retired some years ago. I can say to my hon. friend, if that is the purport of his question, no representations concerning the present pension provisions have come to my attention affecting employees presently engaged in the operations of the company.

**Mr. Benidickson:** My understanding is that pension arrangements between the present

employees and management would be arranged between themselves. My understanding is that it is as the minister has indicated, the group of retired pensioners who always had the great interest of the Prime Minister when he was sitting on this side of the house. I am rather surprised when the Minister of Finance says he has received no representations concerning this group. I thought perhaps the Prime Minister would have consulted him about them because revision could not take place in connection with this group, as I recall it, even if the directorate of the Canadian National was prepared to accept the recommendations, without reference to the government who would have to deal with it by order in council.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I think my hon. friend has not interpreted my answer correctly. I said that I was referring to pensions in effect now for employees engaged in the service of the company. I have had no representations in regard to that group. The other group is in an entirely different category, namely, those employees who have been retired some years ago under the previous pension provision.

Item agreed to.

789. Reimbursement of the Department of Transport stores account for the value of stores which have become obsolete, unserviceable, lost or destroyed, \$32,738.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask whether this is being done in accordance with a statute? Is there a statute covering the replacement of these stores?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Yes, this is done in accordance with regulations made under authority of section 60, subsection (2), of the Financial Administration Act.

Item agreed to.

790. Expenses of an inquiry into the coasting trade of Canada authorized under the Inquiries Act, including the payment, notwithstanding the Civil Service Act, of honoraria or allowances as may be authorized by the treasury board to officers, clerks or employees permanently employed in the civil service for services rendered by them in connection with the inquiry—further amount required, \$2,710.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Can the minister say whether the recommendations of the royal commission on coastal trading, which is covered here, are still under consideration, and what the government is going to do about them?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** They are still under consideration.

Item agreed to.