

Transportation

And to speak of bilingualism to the Minister of Transport: When ships sail into the gulf they are forced to communicate by radio with the first station on the way into the country, the one situated at Cap-aux-Meules, in the Magdalen Islands. Well, not a word of French is to be had on this radio station. And the same goes for most other radio stations along the St. Lawrence seaway.

The minister should also inquire about that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is another point. I know my friend, the hon. member for Sherbrooke also wishes to mention it. The hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) has referred to it today. Someone is trying to have us pass this bill in haste. In Quebec, the premier objects to that. He is ready to table the letters, but he is waiting for the federal government's permission.

Well, we know implicitly that the premier of Quebec is ready to table the letters. The premier replied as follows to a question from the leader of the opposition in the Quebec legislature: We are ready to table the documents but we are waiting for an answer from the Prime Minister in Ottawa.

Therefore, we want that correspondence. I think the minister is ready to table the correspondence, but I believe he should do so before the passing of this bill, so that we may all be able to know about these objections—and to see whether they are valid or not.

That problem must be settled before we come to the third reading stage, even before the passing of clause 1 of the bill. I hope the minister will rush the necessary information. I hope he will have relevant remarks to make and that he will give us his opinion in this regard.

The members from Montreal and other areas in the province of Quebec are saying that we imagine we are the only ones to speak on their behalf. In this connection, I will say this: The leader of the opposition in Quebec, who is a member of the Liberal party, and the premier of the province, are of one mind in protesting against the intrusion on the part of the federal government upon a field of provincial jurisdiction. Mr. Chairman, I will not labour the point, merely in order to give them an opportunity to express their view. I am going to give them an opportunity to be the first ones to speak about it, so that they will not be able to accuse me of taking their place. If I have done so on some other occasions, it was because they were not doing it. But now, I am going to let them express

[Mr. Grégoire.]

their opinion. They will not be able to make the same accusation in this connection.

Mr. Chairman, I meant to call the attention of the Minister of Transport on one point and I want to give my colleagues in the Liberal party an opportunity to point out something else to him. Once they have dealt with that, I will express my opinion concerning the intrusion of the federal government upon a field of provincial jurisdiction.

[English]

Mr. Macaluso: Mr. Chairman, I would be quite remiss if before the passing of the bill I did not express, as chairman of the standing committee on transport and communications, my appreciation to members of the committee. As was stated in the report which was filed by the committee, this committee, in hearing the briefs of all the witnesses and considering all the amendments which were presented, held some 33 meetings, heard evidence from some 73 witnesses and received and considered 36 briefs from corporations and individuals who are interested in Bill C-231. In total, since the commencement of this session the committee has held some 72 meetings on all aspects of transportation and communications. I believe that perhaps this is the greatest number of meetings held by any committee in the history of any parliament of Canada.

I as chairman of that committee wish to express my appreciation to all the members of the committee for their diligence in attending the meetings, many of which the press apparently did not consider interesting or newsworthy, although in fact this committee dealt with what is perhaps the most important piece of legislation with which this country will have to deal for a good many years.

The committee has given an example of what can be done by members of parliament serving on standing committees of the house.

I do not wish to single out any particular members, but again I feel I would be remiss in my duty if I did not express particular appreciation to three members of that committee who attended its meetings every day and who were very diligent in their work. I am referring to the hon. members for Moose Mountain, Moose Jaw-Lake Centre and Kindersley. I think that these three members should be singled out for their efforts. I am not trying to take away from the work of the other members from all parties in the house,