

Committee on Railways and Shipping

you could not get managerial personnel. What a hope that is for these men down here in the Chateau Laurier, who either should be fired or promoted. If they are not competent, fire them. If they are competent, give them promotion. I am not speaking from the political angle—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): What a joke.

Mr. Ferguson: At least I am speaking with some degree of humour, apparently. There are some men who pay little attention to what goes on in the House of Commons. This is now bringing a little laughter to their lips. There must therefore be something in what I am saying when it creates a laugh even amongst those rubber stamps of the Liberal government. If I have done even that, I have done something.

I want to impress upon them that I am on my feet for only one reason. I believe Canada is a great country. I am disappointed about the unemployment situation as it exists today. I believe Canada should have 50 million people, with its terrific natural resources.

I am also firmly convinced that Canadians must stop looking for foreign aid. We have to stop living in prosperity brought about during the war. The first and second wars were virtually put Canada on her feet. You cannot deny that. We made money when other people shed their blood. We did that to some extent. The two wars were the greatest experience Canada ever had. They brought manufacturing plants to this country that we would never have had today. In the eight years since the war we have been basking in the prosperity brought about by the fact that we were making munitions during the six years of war.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a point of order? Perhaps the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Ferguson) would like a rest for a moment. I have been reading *Beauchesne*. I realize that I am only a junior member and therefore full of ignorance. However, I want to learn.

Mr. Ferguson: Sit down and you will learn, all right.

Mr. Richardson: *Beauchesne*, third edition, citation 546, reads as follows:

When the house is engaged in nominating the members of a committee—

I understand that is the purpose of the resolution before the house.

—it is not competent for an hon. member to open the whole subject.

Mr. Speaker, could we have a ruling as to whether we have not gone quite a distance?

[Mr. Ferguson.]

I myself refrained from rising for quite a while because, as the member for St. Lawrence-St. George, I am much interested in the subject of hotels. But I am wondering whether we are not trespassing a little bit and getting somewhat far from the resolution that is at present before the house.

Mr. Ferguson: If my hon. friend had been here this afternoon he would have heard this matter settled. It was all discussed then.

Mr. Langlois (Gaspé): He was here.

Mr. Ferguson: If you are still of the same opinion—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I appreciate the remarks of the hon. member who has raised the point of order. It is my own impression that on a resolution of this kind we should attempt to discuss the advisability or inadvisability of setting up the committee. However, if one reads the debates on resolutions of this kind, one finds that in practice it is almost impossible to confine a debate so strictly.

In this debate today I am afraid that perhaps rather wide latitude has been allowed. While there is some merit in the point of order raised by the hon. member, I do not feel that I could at this time rule that the hon. member for Simcoe North was out of order. At this stage in the evening, however, I would request all hon. members to confine themselves, so far as possible, to the principle of the resolution, namely the advisability or the inadvisability of setting up this sessional committee.

Mr. Ferguson: Mr. Speaker, my friend the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George will, I am sure, have his wish fulfilled within the next five or six and twenty years. He will learn something in the House of Commons. If at times the hon. member feels as sincerely as I do, through the bitter experience of watching the slow growth of this country of ours, I hope he will voice his views in order to try to alter the opinions of those in power even when he finds himself, after the next election, in opposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Ferguson: Much gross mismanagement of Canadian affairs of the kind we are now seeing at the hands of the present government will bring about that very result. There are many people who feel like I do. They believe there is no reason for the management of Canadian National Railways to do what it is about to do. They feel that the example they are setting is a great detriment to the progress of Canada and is a bad example for the coming generation. They