

Mr. MACDONNELL: It seems to me this would be the point at which to ask Mr. Gordon to say what are the comparable freight rate increases in the United States as compared to Canada. It seems to me that it is relevant to have some information of that kind. It is important information.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: Well, the United States are still ahead of us, Mr. Macdonnell.

Mr. GORDON: I have it here. The overall figure—I suppose you are not interested in the breakdown—the overall figure shows that increases in freight rates effective in 1952 would bring the United States increase to 79.3 per cent. That compares with Canada's total of 54.7 per cent. Are you looking for the overall increases?

The CHAIRMAN: As long as the comparable figures are used we will get the true picture.

Mr. GORDON: The actual increases authorized in the United States would be—there is an increase which becomes effective on May 2—106.5 per cent.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Since when?

Mr. GORDON: That would be since 1948—it is from 1938 really, to date. The United States would be 106.5 per cent compared with the Canadian figure of 78.9 per cent.

Mr. MACDONNELL: From 1938?

Mr. GORDON: No, no. 69.9 per cent in Canada, as compared with 106.5 per cent in the United States as of May this year.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: There was a recent increase in the United States?

Mr. GORDON: Yes, and that becomes effective on May 2.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: You are including that in the 106.5 per cent?

Mr. GORDON: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn at one o'clock, one matter has been called to my attention, which is that the Defence Expenditure Committee meets tomorrow morning and some members of this committee will, of necessity, be absent. I think, this afternoon, if the committee is willing, we should give the right of way and even go out of order in considering the report, if necessary, in order that those members who will be absent tomorrow will be able to ask the questions which they would want to ask tomorrow morning. I should also indicate to the committee now as to our times of sitting. It has usually been the practice of this committee to have an afternoon sitting on the first day, but not to have an evening sitting on the first day; on the second day, to clean up our work and sit in the evening if we require to.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Is it considered absolutely inescapable that this committee has to sit tomorrow morning?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Macdonnell. We have not only the president here but the vice-president and the high ranking executive officers, and we cannot keep these men sitting around Ottawa at our convenience.

Mr. MACDONNELL: They have passes on the train to Montreal.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: Meanwhile they are sitting here doing nothing.

The CHAIRMAN: We will accommodate members of the committee, then, who want to be away tomorrow morning. We will let them ask any questions in advance of our work, but we cannot ask these officials to be absent from their desks for more than two days.