

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

through transcontinental services, and these fears are becoming very real and serious. It is not only employees who are concerned but also communities. Yet the Minister apparently takes the attitude in this regard that somehow this is beyond him, that the railways are often at arm's length. When the air lines were often at arm's length the Minister wanted to encourage them to get together and develop a sort of air policy which meshed so that we have a division of air passenger service with some relation to the economics of each corporation. But here is a very different attitude. The C.N.R. has one attitude and the C.P.R. another. Thank the Lord Mr. Emerson does not hide behind any technicality. He wants the subsidies recommended by the MacPherson Royal Commission and wants to get out of passenger service wherever he can.

This situation cannot go on the way it is. My question to the Minister was really to suggest that he quit ducking his responsibility in this regard and come out with a Government policy regarding rail passenger service, particularly for the transcontinental line. That was really the question I put to him, and I would suggest to him there is a good analogy here and that the Railway Act or any other Act gives him no excuse to duck his responsibility any longer.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is perhaps more eloquent than he is factual about this matter because the Government has a policy. It was not evolved by me. It was accepted by the present Government before I became Minister of Transport, and it was to carry out, so far as passenger service is concerned, the recommendations of the MacPherson Royal Commission. I introduced a bill in this House which received first reading and—

Mr. Fisher: On a point of order—

Mr. Pickersgill: I think there are no points of order allowed at this time.

Mr. Fisher: Then I would refer the Minister to what he said today during the question period.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. gentleman, having been allowed to speak uninterruptedly, would not trespass on my three minutes. As I was saying, it is our policy to apply the recommendations of the MacPherson Commission as soon as this Parliament is ready to deal with that legislation and the time-

[Mr. Fisher.]

table will permit it. In the meantime, the hon. gentleman knows as well as I do that any community that is concerned or aggrieved has a remedy under the Railway Act to go before a court of record, the Board of Transport Commissioners, and make its case.

I am not one of those who think it is very wise, just because one can grab a headline by doing so, to substitute a Minister of the Crown with airy-fairy statements about matters on which one is not an expert for bodies set up by Parliament, as is the Board of Transport Commissioners, to deal precisely with this kind of problem according to the laws made by Parliament. That is the position I take and I think it is the proper position for anybody charged with responsibility to take.

Mr. Fisher: Hogwash.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—DESIGNATED AREAS—
CONSULTATION WITH YUKON AND
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Gene Rhéaume (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Prime Minister whether he would agree to consult with the Governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories at the same time as he was holding consultations with the Governments of the Provinces of Canada in relation to the new criteria to establish designated areas. At that time the Prime Minister answered, as reported at page 2043 of *Hansard*:

The Governments of the two territories are kept informed of what is going on.

• (10:20 p.m.)

I am speaking tonight to suggest to the Prime Minister that those of us who live in either the Yukon or Northwest Territories are not happy with this kind of an answer. We are not happy when we are told after the fact what the Government is doing. We want to participate in the decision making process rather than to be presented with a *fait accompli* after some deal has been made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and the provincial Premiers.

Yesterday the Prime Minister stated, and I quote from page 2023 of *Hansard*:

The preparation of this program has already benefited from consultation with provincial Governments, who have been made aware of the criteria that we are considering applying to the designation of areas.

Later he stated:

Mr. Speaker, this is one of a series of measures which will be placed before you to combat poverty in Canada. The importance of the present pro-