

Establishment of Industry Department

an important item to be considered. Of course, when one steps from the civil service into government he does not ever get that appreciation of what the individual constituent has in mind as one does if one is in a position where there is some doubt about being elected. If you put your seat up for grabs the way some members of parliament have to do, and as often as some have had to do in the past or have to visit your constituency once in a while, you appreciate how individual Canadians and businessmen are concerned about the growing bureaucracy that is so evident in Canada today.

There is some unhappiness, in my opinion, about the way the present government has indicated it plans to operate. It is quite a frustrating thing for members like the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Justice, men who have been politicians all their lives, men who did not join the civil service in the hope of later becoming cabinet ministers as a result of a party finding them safe seats—

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if the hon. gentleman would permit me to ask him another question? Does the hon. gentleman now consider St. Antoine-Westmount a safe Liberal seat?

Mr. Coates: If one can judge from the majority the Minister of Defence Production piled up, I would say that is a fairly significant indication that it is a safe Liberal seat at the moment.

Mr. Martineau: May I ask the hon. member a question? Does he consider the constituency of Bonavista-Twillingate a safe seat for the Liberal party?

Mr. Coates: As long as the Secretary of State has the patronage of the premier of Newfoundland, it is.

Mr. Tucker: Filibuster.

Mr. Coates: The hon. member says, "filibuster".

Mr. Pickersgill: If I may interrupt for just a minute, I should like to inquire if there would be any possibility, since it is now five o'clock, of passing the resolution at this stage so that hon. members could see the bill, if I were to give an undertaking that the bill would be the first item called for debate tomorrow.

(Translation):

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. May I point out to the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) that, since he is not at his place, he cannot ask questions?

[Mr. Coates.]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I shall point out to the hon. member that we can speak from any place when the house sits in committee.

(Text):

The Deputy Chairman: Order; I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but it is five o'clock and the house must proceed to the consideration of private members' notices of motions pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder if there was an answer given to my query? The hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue is the senior privy councillor over there, and perhaps he could indicate whether or not it would be agreeable to the committee to pass the resolution so that we could have first reading of the bill.

Mr. Coates: Unlike hon. members on that side of the house, I do not need the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue to speak for me. I have not completed my remarks as yet.

The Deputy Chairman: It being five o'clock, so that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15, it is my duty to rise, report progress and request leave to sit again later this day.

Progress reported.

FREIGHT RATESREQUEST FOR EQUALIZATION TO EFFECT
EQUITABLE COSTS

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give immediate consideration to the advisability of establishing an equalization of freight rates in Canada in order to provide a more equitable cost of various goods and services in all parts of the nation.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to have the opportunity of introducing the motion which is before the house at this time. I do so with a feeling of deep responsibility because I realize the importance and necessity of a measure such as I have suggested in this motion. Many areas of Canada suffer from and are severely handicapped by an excessive freight rate, and the area which I have the honour of representing comes within this category.

When I first went to northern Manitoba in 1935 I immediately found that the cost of living in that area was a good deal higher than it was in the city of Winnipeg. The stock answer at that time, when anybody inquired about it, was, "It is the freight rates". Mr. Speaker, this expression is one which has defied the sands of time, because it is still the favorite excuse in relation to all price differentials which obtain in the northern part of the province. I must hasten to admit at