

Business of the House

strenuously with the operations of the C.N.R. What has caused the sudden change in attitude?

Mr. Fisher: Bilingualism.

Mr. Knowles: He can still do it on second reading.

Mr. Grégoire: We will have an opportunity then.

Mr. Churchill: Will he assure us he will not continue his talk of other years on second reading of this bill?

Mr. Grégoire: Why not?

Mr. Churchill: As far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, although it is a rather unusual procedure and we think that items like this should be brought to our attention at the proper time when the business of the house is announced, we will nevertheless go along with the proposal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, this bill does not normally go to a committee. We will see the bill when it is introduced and it will not go to a committee.

Mr. Grégoire: If it is not going to go to a committee, we are opposed. We thought it would go to a committee at the same time as the other bill so that we would be able to discuss all these problems in committee and have a general idea of all the problems of the C.N.R. That is what we would like and I should like to have an answer from the minister.

Mr. Fisher: Of course it will go to committee of the whole.

Mr. Grégoire: No, I mean the committee on railways. Will it not go to the committee on railways? I should like to ask the minister that question. Will it go to the railway committee?

Mr. Favreau: I am advised it never has and it is not the intention of the government that it should go before the committee on railways.

Mr. Grégoire: Then we are opposed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could take the time to make my point. Only last July we had Mr. Gordon before us. The hon. member was there and we went into everything connected with the C.N.R. This is not the big measure by way of recapitali-

zation for which Mr. Gordon is looking. This is just the normal money bill. I suggest to the hon. member that on this other measure he can take up almost anything in which he may be interested. Therefore I hope the hon. member will change his mind.

Mr. Grégoire: No, Mr. Speaker. If this measure goes before the committee along with the other one everybody will then realize that under item 51 we are giving so many hundred million to the C.N.R. and under item 35 so many hundred million to the C.N.R. We would also like to have the bill on recapitalization sent to the committee at the same time, so that we could have the whole picture of all the operations and what they cost and try to make necessary changes. We would like to have the bill sent to the committee. I may tell the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre that there is no change in my opinion. We would like to see the bill sent to the committee and then we could discuss all these measures.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps I should make the situation clear, because I believe the hon. member may be under a misapprehension. This measure has nothing to do with recapitalization. This is an annual bill which has to come before parliament every year. It has always been treated as something rather close to a matter of routine. It is really a kind of audit of the C.N.R. and the bill has never been sent to a committee because the C.N.R. in its annual report traverses a much broader field. I think it would be rather a mistake to depart from the normal procedure and agree to send the bill to a committee simply for the sake of having the resolution passed and getting the bill before us. I would not feel competent, and I doubt that the Minister of Justice would either, to commit the Minister of Finance, whose bill it is, to an unusual course of that kind. Therefore unless the house can see fit to carry out the original suggestion of the hon. member for Lapointe that we dispose of the resolution and give the bill first reading—there will be ample time on second reading and in committee of the whole to consider it—I think we had better go on with the business that was prescribed.

Mr. Grégoire: It is not my proposition, because my original proposition was to send it to a committee. If that is not to be done we will not agree to pass the resolution without debate.

Mr. Churchill: That is terrible. We would like to accept the original proposal of the hon.