

Master Agency System Explained By Gordon

By JAMES NELSON
OTTAWA (CP) — Establishment of a CNR master agency system, now being tried in Moncton, N.B., and Edmonton, may result in a long-run growth in job opportunities, CNR President Donald Gordon said here.

Appearing before the Commons House of Commons shipping committee, Mr. Gordon was in a mellow and expansive mood as he described new developments in railroad design designed to improve service while meeting the competition of other transportation systems.

Under the master agency system, CNR stations and sheds may be closed in many small communities around the major shipping centre, and the short-haul freight and express traffic handled by truck from the big centres.

Members of the committee feared this meant dislocation of jobs for many agents and increased truck competition between the sprawling giant of the national railway system and the local private trucker.

Not necessarily so, said Mr. Gordon. The plan would be introduced only over a long period of adjustment, and not so rapidly as to displace many workers now on the payroll. The long-run prospect was for increased employment.

"It will mean dislocation of some types of skills, and it will be most anxious in regard to the human problem," Mr. Gordon said. "We are trying to show how best to move the workers around and meet this problem."

QUIZED ON REPORT
Mr. Gordon appeared with his 1962 annual report—now nearly a year old—and was quizzed on a wide range of local problems. Committee members, however, appeared to be reserving discussion of the big issues of bilingualism, truck competition, and branch line abandonment until later.

The committee continues its hearings today. The morning sitting of the committee, which in past years has seen heated fireworks between the CNR president and MPs, was relatively placid. At one point, Mr. Gordon was being quizzed by Sherwood Rideout (L-Westmorland) about property development in Moncton, he said.

"I don't want to get annoyed. In fact, I'm not going to get annoyed."

But, Mr. Gordon said, he could not let pass without comment "an amendment" which he claimed Mr. Rideout made. The new Brunswick MP complained about the lack of an outdoor shelter at a new CNR station in Moncton, and said it was too small for the city.

CNR SHOWPLACE
Mr. Gordon said the new building is modern, efficient, and a CNR showplace in the Maritimes. He said it will accommodate Moncton's needs, based on expert advice of railway officials.

"The public disagree with you," Mr. Rideout said. "Well, I disagree with you," Mr. Gordon replied. "You're not the public—you're just one man." Gilles Grogire (Creditiste-Lapointe) said Mr. Rideout, as a member of Parliament, represented the public.

BOGGED DOWN
He said in reply to questions by Leon Balcer (PC-Trois-Rivieres), former transport minister, who wants for a new railway ferry service at Sept Iles, Que., connecting with Bale Combe, would be "quite expensive," and improvements in service at Bale Combe "have bogged down."

Mr. Gordon told Gilles Grogire (Creditiste-Lapointe) that CNR intends to establish a new fast service between Montreal and Quebec City with a running time of 2½ to 3½ hours next spring, following the south shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Transport Minister McElraith told the committee the government has made no decision—and he doesn't expect one before Christmas—on construction of a 57-mile line between Miramichi and Ste. Anne des Monts in the Gaspé region. The railway made a study of the proposed line for the former Conservative government.

Mr. Gordon said the company's research and prospects in passenger services do not contemplate any extension of commuter lines. The CNR is interested in the subject only if some metropolitan government—such as Toronto or Montreal—wants to take responsibility and make a deal with the railway.

"Basically, it's a losing proposition," Mr. Gordon said.

Defence Cuts Hit Hardest Blow At Navy

WINNIPEG (CP) — Defence budget cuts have hit the navy proportionately harder than the other two services, says President Liston McInnaha of the Naval Officers' Association of Canada.

He said in an interview here that the navy generally gets about 20 per cent of the money allotted to the combined services. But it received 25 per cent of the reductions.

The cutback, announced by Defence Minister Hellyer last week, appears to be "out of proportion."

Mr. McInnaha, head of a group made up of 2,500 retired naval officers, said the imbalance was large enough to raise serious concern on the part of the navy.

From a long-range viewpoint, he said, the association is most concerned about the damage done to youth training programs.

However, he said the association could not draw concrete conclusions on the reductions until it has seen the defence review and the white paper on defence due in January.

In a prepared statement issued earlier, the association said it appreciates the "necessity of cutting operating costs and branch line abandonment until later."

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LAUNCH COSMOS XXIII
LONDON (Reuters) — Russia Friday launched another earth satellite — Cosmos XXIII—carrying scientific instruments, the official Soviet news agency announced.

"We view with considerable alarm, however, the closing down of naval reserve divisions, particularly in areas where there is no other naval representation."

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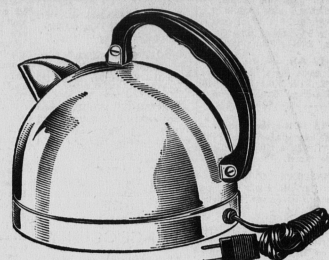


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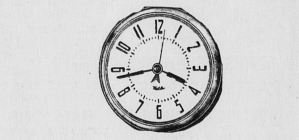


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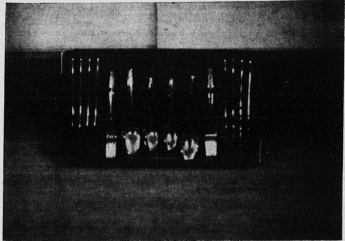


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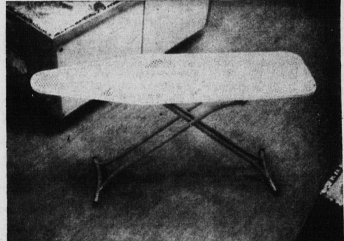


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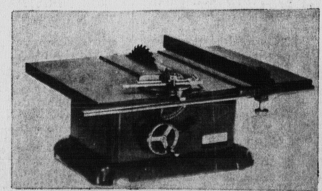
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