

Western Grain Transportation Act

came to have his picture taken with the committee once and attended for 15 minutes.

Mr. Deans: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It may surprise the Hon. Member who has just spoken to know that not only did I attend hearings, but I read every word of the proceedings. As the House Leader, that is my job.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I wonder what the consequence is of the amendment which the NDP brought in today, that so-called defender of the Crow rate, these Hon. Members who have been trumpeting their dedication to the statutory rate. By using exactly the same amendment as the Government presented with the exception of blocking out part of Subsection (a) of Motion No. 59 which deals with the number of percentage points of the freight rate price ratio, they removed the graduated scale and put in their own maximum of 3 per cent.

Mr. Epp: Three per cent! That is a 20 per cent increase.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This is an amazing thing, Mr. Speaker. Here it is, the Liberal-NDP coalition, reading from the same song sheet! They have different figures, but these people are talking about precisely the same thing. What they are talking about is the destruction of the Crow rate. They know they are as guilty as the Liberal Government with respect to the destruction of the Crowsnest Pass rate. I challenge them to stand up in western Canada with a straight face and suggest that they have anything—

An Hon. Member: Any time you want it, Ray.

Mr. de Jong: You are getting red in the face. You must be lying or something. Are you not telling the truth? Why are you blushing like that?

Mr. Althouse: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that if the Hon. Member is reading a motion, he should give the proper interpretation to it. The safety net is a ceiling, not a floor. It provides a very adequate protection in the event—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order. The Hon. Member is not making a point of order, he is entering into debate. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) will continue his brilliant remarks.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Let me just say to the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse), Mr. Speaker, that 10 per cent is a ceiling as well. I can tell him that 15 per cent is a ceiling and 50 per cent is a ceiling. Three per cent is a ceiling. The Hon. Member knows, Mr. Speaker, in the situation today, that if we were to take the figures right now in terms of half a cent per tonne mile, it would be the equivalent of a 2.5 per cent figure. The NDP Members are suggesting that they are going to raise this to 3 per cent. That is a 20 per cent increase.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are getting ready to stand up and compliment me on my acute observations. However, I would just like to conclude my remarks with one sentence. The NDP Members have declared their true feelings with respect

to this matter through this amendment. What they have now proposed is the destruction of the Crow rate. I say to my hon. friends in the House of Commons that I will not let western Canadians forget this during the course of the next election campaign.

● (2220)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on Motion No. 50. All those in favour will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 79(11), the recorded division on the proposed motion will be deferred.

The question is on Motion No. 52. All those in favour will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 79(11), the recorded division on the proposed motion will be deferred. A vote on Motion No. 52 disposes of Motion No. 53.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West) moved:

Motion No. 55

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 33 by striking out lines 11 to 43 at page 16 and substituting the following therefor:

"for the purpose of moving grain and the Minister shall take every reasonable initiative to ensure that an adequate supply of rolling stock will be provided for the efficient, reliable and effective movement of grain.

(2) The Minister may enter into agreements with the owners of lessees of railway cars.

(3) The Canadian Wheat Board shall administer and control any railway cars acquired or leased by the Board or by the Minister on behalf of Her Majesty.

(4) The Canadian Wheat Board may, in respect of railway cars under its administration and control, enter into agreements with the railway companies respecting the operation of the railway cars."

Motion No. 56

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 33 by striking out lines 24 to 30 at page 16 and renumbering the subsequent subclauses accordingly.