

Western Grain Transportation Act

hear anything which will assist in making a decision on the matter, but the Chair requests Hon. Members, please, do not give historical items or anecdotes, or matters that are irrelevant to the essential matters before us. Deal with the principles involved in a decision which the Chair must take.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on just a brief point which concerns the procedure and the process. As I understand it, you will defer decision on this and consider the arguments which have been made. I simply put to you that I suppose it will be with the understanding that the debate will go on. If you find that the Bill is improperly before the House, then the debate will certainly be superfluous.

While you, Mr. Speaker, undertake to consider the rendering of a decision, I would suggest that the debate on this particular measure be suspended or deferred. There are lots of other House business with which we can deal. While this issue is before the House, while the question of three or perhaps four basic principles fundamental to an omnibus piece of legislation is under consideration, I think the Speaker owes it to the House to have debate on the issue deferred and/or suspended. We can go on with other business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member, the Chair is inviting argument in order to assist in rendering a decision on the point of order raised. The Chair invites interventions dealing with the point of argument at this point. After the Chair has heard argument that appears to be relevant, the Chair will give a decision as soon as it is possible to do so. The suggestion of the Chair is that the debate be continued, and the Chair will not unduly delay a decision.

At this stage are there Hon. Members who are prepared to contribute to the argument? The Hon. Member for Regina West, in the opinion of the Chair, did not get to any point of principle. For the Hon. Member to seek to be recognized on the same point of order when he has previously not dealt with the point of order, I think, is an abuse of the House. Are there other Hon. Members who are prepared—

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke.

Mr. Parker: Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had to speak on the separation of the Bill. I rose once before and was ruled out of order because we were speaking on the amendment. As the Member of Parliament involved with the 50,000 acres in my riding—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member has been recognized. Will he please make his point of order?

Mr. Parker: My point of order is the fact that this Bill will deal with 50,000 acres of coal land that are in my riding. I am the only Hon. Member in this situation who will have to vote on this piece of legislation. If I want to support the Transportation Act—and I want to try to support the improvement of

our transportation system—I will be allowing the Government to steal 50,000 acres of land from my riding.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member, this is not really relevant.

Mr. Deans: Of course it is relevant.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair is seeking argument to assist in making a decision. The Hon. Member is not giving argument. I understand his concern. He has expressed his concern previously in the House. It is very real. There is no doubt that in the minds of his voters what he does is a very serious matter. But will the Hon. Member please deal with the point of order before the House?

Mr. Parker: Mr. Speaker, my point of order concerns the fact that we have asked to have this Bill separated. I ask each and every Member of the House of Commons whether they can support a piece of legislation which unveils three items—the cost of grain transportation, improving the transportation system, and the actual outright stealing of 50,000 acres from the Province of British Columbia. I cannot, in all conscience. I say to every Member of Parliament that this Bill must be separated in a way that we can deal with the coal blocs. I, for one, want those coal blocs to be returned to the Province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Regina West. Would he please deal with the point of order?

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, the Crows Nest Pass Act of 1897 reserved certain lands and it also set certain freight rates. Those certain freight rates were removed from the Crows Nest Pass Act of 1897, put into the statutes of 1925 to 1927, and became the statutory rates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member can give the House a lecture on the history of the statutes and on the history of the rates, but the issue before the Chair is a very specific one raised by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain. This is the fourth time in which the Hon. Member has not dealt with the point of order. How often does the Hon. Member expect to be recognized, if he will not deal with the point of order?

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, if you had given me another five seconds you would have found out why the coal lands are totally unrelated to the other two principles in the Bill. That particular item can stand on its own.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That was a point made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain. The Hon. Member is adding nothing to the debate at this point. He is only repeating what the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain very ably said in a previous sitting of the House. I implore Hon. Members at least to give the Chair the credit of paying attention to what is said and ask them not simply to repeat argument.

Mr. Lewycky: Mr. Speaker, I just want to add something. I have listened very carefully to the debate and I do not recall anyone mentioning it. Very specifically in our rules we have