

Western Grain Transportation Act

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, the motions now before us are Motions Nos. 50, 52 and 53. I began my remarks with those words because I want you to know right from the start that I know what motions we are talking about.

Bearing in mind that we are dealing with Motions Nos. 50, 52 and 53, I would like to tell you, Sir, that the bottom line is the question of trust. What frightens me most about this whole proposed legislation is that the New Democratic Party has found it necessary to put some motions before us. In essence, they are saying that if we follow the Minister's policy by which all the money goes to the railway with no competition in the transportation system on the Prairies, and competition is eroded to the point where there is only one mode of transportation, we will need an enormous bureaucracy so the Government can control that system. This would result also from the present motions. I submit that it is a dangerous precedent for us to set.

● (2110)

Mr. Althouse: You better read Motion No. 58 before you go on.

Mr. Malone: What the NDP ought to do is to make their own speeches instead of coaching mine.

Mr. Althouse: Read the motion.

Mr. Malone: Would the Member from Mount St. Helen's quit blowing his top. Calm down for a moment.

We are faced with a situation in which enshrined in the amendment is the whole question as to whether we are to have a bureaucratic structure telling the private sector in the country how to run its business. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) says that we are not dealing with a corner grocery store. He says that we are dealing with one of the largest industries in all of Canada. I say to him, so what? There is a principle of business. When one deals with principles one does not deal with the cost of money or whether a business is large or small.

The NDP claims that it is for small business. Let me tell the truth about the NDP. It is for small business until such time as those businesses become successful. Because the NDP has that kind of hate legacy for anything it deems to be big it does not like them. The NDP likes smallness because it can control it. It is against anything that is large because it competes with its ideology of Government control. NDP members believe that the Government should control, and therefore do not follow business practices but introduce motions which dictate to the private sector how it should spend.

One of the amendments to this legislation would offer freedom of choice in the system of transportation. Consequently, if the railways do not compete as the public feels they should there are competitive modes of transportation available. This means there are other modes of transportation competition, such as the use of trucks, which would then make the railways chase the dollar. When they have to do this in order to make money, since their profitability lies in the farmers, the

railways must perform in order to get that dollar. Therefore they will function in a way that is acceptable and in accordance with business practice.

The NDP does not want that. It wants to allow the railways to concentrate on one mode of transportation and then throw the bureaucracy of Government on top, laden with layers of performance tests, bureaucracy to make sure they spend the right amounts on the right things and another layer of Government to run out to the Prairies to monitor the hopper cars. The NDP do not want to see competition. As the Member for Winnipeg North said, "We are not dealing with the corner grocer, we are dealing with the biggest industry in all of Canada."

If business principles are followed and the money is put into the pockets of the farmers, and they are allowed to make their choice as to how to deliver their grain, there would be no need for the bureaucracies that the Liberals and the NDP would find necessary to build. Furthermore, the country would be on the road to efficiency if those principles were to be used. We would be on the road to finding a way to move our grain. This would make us competitive in the world and enable us to earn money in terms of our balance of payments, money that otherwise would be sucked up by governments with their many layers of bureaucracy. It is incumbent upon all Canadians to demand efficiency. This is especially important to demand of the Government which only practices fiscal responsibility by borrowing until responsibility is total irresponsibility.

The issue concerns the difference between the approach taken by Motion No. 52 and Motion No. 53 and the concept of freedom of choice by the producer. That freedom of choice on the Prairies would include choosing between CP and CN for grain transportation. A producer could haul his grain a further distance to a different line and this would give competition between the railways. When that takes place we would then have the business principles being exercised by the producers throughout Prairie Canada, thus forcing companies as big as CN and CP to perform in order to chase the dollar to get the business.

I submit that we are going to end up with something I fear; the Government favouring one mode of transportation. Since it would favour and pay that one mode, it would need the bureaucracy to support it. Even before this Bill has passed third reading or has been enacted, there are amendments on the books providing for that very occurrence. It is a principle that you need to have bureaucracy to control and direct how the money is spent, and that is a sham.

Since there is a more efficient and profitable way to do it, why should Canadians believe that this socialist, left-leaning aberration of economic principle, could ever lead to anything except more debt, higher taxes and less money in the pockets of Canadians, once the grain has been delivered to port and sold to other nations?

The sale of grain is the greatest contributor to Canada's federal coffers of any single commodity. The sale of grain has contributed \$6 billion and provides money for the Canadian economy in a way that no other product can. For that reason I