

Government Orders

\$4 billion to \$5 billion over the next 10 years to get it done.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to enter into debate on Bill C-5, an act to amend the Railway Act. All members realize that the purpose of this bill is to add a subsection to Section (6) of the Railway Act that allows a province to assume jurisdiction over the interprovincial rail lines.

I think it is appropriate that we recognize what is going on here today. I want to make it clear that the New Democratic Party is not in a position to stop this legislation from moving into committee. Nothing of the sort. We indicated that we wanted to discuss bills thoroughly and we look forward to getting this bill into committee at some point in time, and seeking the appropriate witnesses to respond to see if, in fact, this is the direction the Government of Canada ought to be taking. I mean that with all sincerity.

• (1440)

On the other hand, I think it is clear that what we are also doing as a result of this is sending a signal to the government. The Prime Minister, on many occasions, in reference to the goods and services tax indicated that he does not like this tax and the people of Canada do not like this tax, but it is the right thing to do.

I want to say, on behalf of my colleagues, that we do not enjoy the kinds of things that we have had to do in the last number of days. We do not enjoy frustrating the government at every turn. We do not enjoy making life miserable for the government in terms of its punitive agenda and so on, but it is the right thing to do and we have got to do it.

When 89 per cent of the people of Canada call us and ask us to do what we can to give them time to apply more pressure on the back-benchers on the Conservative side so that they can realize what this goods and services tax is going to do to them and to the country, we have an obligation to do just that.

I know that we have tried our best in the last few days to bring the government to its senses. We have tried to send a message to the government that at least this party is not going to co-operate with the government. In that tradition, I think it is only appropriate that I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion 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: Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion which was negatived on the following division:

(Division No. 178)

YEAS

Members

Anawak	Assad
Bellemare	Benjamin
Black	Callbeck
Catterall	Dionne
Langan (Mission—Coquitlam)	Langdon (Essex—Windsor)
Manley	Mitchell
Parker	Prud'homme
Riis	Samson—16

NAYS

Members

Belsher	Bjornson
Blais	Bosley
Bourgault	Campbell (Vancouver Centre)
Casey	Chartrand
Collins	Cooper
Duplessis	Edwards
Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Hockin
Horning	Jourdenais
Kempling	Lopez
Marin	Mazankowski
Merrithew	Moore
Oberle	O'Kurley
Plamondon	Plourde
Reid	Sparrow
Tardif	Turner (Halton—Peel)
Van de Walle	Vézina
Weiner	Wilbee
Wilson (Etobicoke Centre)	Winegard—36

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

It being 3.23 p.m. this House stands adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m.

The House adjourned at 3.23 p.m.