

Western Grain Transportation Act

recognize that it is important that, in order to move the grain, they have a system by which they purchase cars. Now the Government wants to take them over. We believe that the power and the control over those cars should continue to rest with the Canadian Wheat Board where it belongs.

Our Party would like to see this entire Bill defeated. We make no secret about that. The Government seems determined to forge ahead with it, regardless of opposition. Earlier the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised there would be no change in the Crow rate unless there was some clear consensus about this on the Prairies. There has been no consensus. In fact the developing consensus is that Bill C-155 is completely unsatisfactory to the people of western Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but the time allocated to him has expired.

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly to the two motions, and to point out that we in this Party, and there are several of us who hold Canadian Wheat Board permit books, do not need lectures from that great wheat grower from Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly) with his phony, trumped up sincerity about the Canadian Wheat Board. I suspect he does not have a clue what the Canadian Wheat Board is all about. If he had followed the proceedings of the committee, he would have understood that even the Pools were basically in favour of some of the things he is talking about. The point is that a lot of the things that have been referred to by Members of the New Democratic Party had nothing to do with the amendment.

I wish to quote from the Grain Transportation Agency Administrator brief to the committee, as follows:

The Pools accept the formal establishment of a Grain Transportation Agency Administrator with co-ordinating functions and powers.

Nobody is talking about taking anything away from the Canadian Wheat Board. We understand the importance of the Canadian Wheat Board. We understand what it does, what it has done in the past, and what this does. If the Hon. Member had followed the committee proceedings he would have understood what happened. Even the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), who at least was in the committee as the "Lone Ranger" of the NDP, understood what was happening.

● (0245)

I do not think the Member even attended a committee meeting. All of a sudden he is an expert.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Malone: He just woke up.

Mr. Anguish: I do not appreciate the Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) saying I just woke up. I have been awake for several hours, trying to participate in the debate which the Tories initiated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is not making a point of order. If he has one, will he please make it?

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is, with all due respect, that you have ruled on the terms of relevancy many times this evening. I would like you tell me anything that was in the present speaker's contribution to this debate that was relevant to the debate itself. There was no relevancy there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is the impression of the Chair that the most recent remarks of the Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer) were strictly relevant to the amendment. I am sure the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish)—

Mr. Anguish: You were on edge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the Hon. Member for the Battlefords-Meadow Lake like to be quiet for just a moment? In the view of the Chair, the most recent remarks of the Hon. Member are strictly relevant to the amendment, and I invite him to continue.

Mr. Mayer: Mr. Speaker, I will not prolong the debate for any length of time. I think we want to get to the next motion which stands in the name of the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight). However, I simply wanted to point out that our record at the committee does not bear out any allegations made by the NDP about this Party's attitude at the committee with respect to the Canadian Wheat Board. In fact, it was the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger), who was very modest in his speech, who was part of the special task force—along with the Hon. Member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) and the Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster—responsible for setting up the Grain Transportation Agency in the first place. Its record speaks for itself because since the time when the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) was Minister of Transport, Canadian farmers have enjoyed records every year and are increasing the amounts of grain for export.

In closing, let me repeat how nonsensical the NDP has been in terms of this amendment. I do not believe that the Conservative Party can be faulted for anything it has done with respect to the Wheat Board. In fact, we recognize its value, and many of us have dealt with it. I have had a Wheat Board permit book since I was 18, which is close to 30 years. We on this side know the value of the Wheat Board, and I suggest the House would be better off spending its time trying to help the individual producers move more grain for export, earn more dollars, and meet their commitments to their bankers and others so they may stay in business on an ongoing basis. I believe that would be much more useful, rather than engaging in that phony sincerity like the Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands, the great weed grower, not wheat grower, and the trumped up sincerity he tries to bring to this issue in terms of the Canadian Wheat Board.

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

Some Hon. Members: Question.