

amended to provide for an adjustment only where an overpayment or underpayment exceeds \$150 million.

The principal objectives of the part of the act concerning the government payments are the following: to provide a statutory basis for the Crow benefit; to define the cost sharing formula; to limit the government payments to a tonnage ceiling linked to a blended freight rate; and finally to provide for a timetable to make government payments.

The government is committed to pay the full Crow benefit of \$658.6 million plus the government share of cost changes. The Crow benefit is the shortfall in railway revenue calculated for 1981-82 when legislative change was set in motion. The shipper currently pays for annual changes in railway costs up to 6 per cent. The government pays for cost changes in excess of 6 per cent.

An adjustment payment is made to CN owing to factors affecting costs outside its control such as port parity to Prince Rupert and the high cost of the Churchill line. There is a single rate scale common to both railways.

The "shipper share limitation" provision in the act requires the government to ensure that average rates paid by shippers do not exceed a defined percentage of the selling price of a basket of six grains. The limit is currently 10 per cent. This acts as a safety net for producers.

The section on review enshrined in legislation is a commitment to undertake reviews of key features of the bill.

I see that my time is up. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to address the Western Grain Transportation Act.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

[*English*]

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1) the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

Government Orders

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis that Bill C-43, an act respecting abortion, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): When the debate ended at five o'clock, the hon. member for Delta had the floor. He has eight minutes remaining in his debate.

• (1800)

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, when we were interrupted by Private Members' Hour, we were just comparing the human foetus not with the acorn but with the young sapling of an oak tree. It resembles a young sapling much more. Although small in size, it has the fully developed characteristics of that mature tree.

However, the single fertilised egg can indeed become a whole body of extremely complex structures producing many different tissues and functions. It will produce many thousands of complex chemicals and enzymes, nerve cells, skin, hair, bone, muscles and blood and various sensory organs.

When we are talking about the embryo or the foetus, we are not dealing with an indeterminate mass or a lump of tissue, we are dealing with something that will eventually become what you and I are today. That little foetus is a contractor for the adult human. It has the plans and the blueprints and the ability to receive supplies from the mother and develop something far more fantastic than the building of brick and mortar. We need to remember that you and I and Dr. Morgentaler were all at one time an embryo, a foetus, a baby and a child.

The greater and harder question we have to ask today is, is that foetus a person? Is it a human being? Does it have a soul? That question must be asked because it is crucial to the whole question of abortion. When does one become a human being? Do we suddenly become one? Is it a gradual process or a developmental thing?