

numbers are falling, but if you think their numbers have fallen now, Mr. Speaker, wait until after the next election. They will be lucky to have six Members to form a Party. They can hoot and holler all they want. I do not understand why they are hooting and hollering about this motion.

Dealing with this motion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that once we in the Conservative Party form the Government, because of this motion the CNR will be forced to have the Auditor General do a comprehensive audit. That covers half of the problem they are talking about. If they were to bring in eastern auditors at \$125 to \$150 an hour, that would create a further burden on the taxpayers of Canada, and in particular those of western Canada. The auditors in the country do not need any more business. Some auditors exist only to analyse and justify Government expenditures.

I do not understand why Hon. Members of the NDP brought forward such a convoluted motion. Even a tax lawyer could not understand that motion. Why would they try and bring forward this amendment when there has been a logical amendment accepted by the committee, and agreed to by Liberal Members, already before the House? That motion simply relates to analysing the investment plans for grain movements. That is what it is all about, Mr. Speaker.

Members of the NDP keep on talking about CPI, Canadian Pacific Investments, which has nothing to do with the CPR other than common ownership. Even if they had their way, they could not touch all these companies they are talking about because it is the railway sector of CPR that would be dealt with because only it relates to the grain movement. Furthermore, if the railways want to take in more depreciation, they can take in depreciation on hotels and aircraft through this particular amendment. If you look at the converse, Mr. Speaker, it is a stupid amendment.

I shall now turn to Motions Nos. 52 and 53. One of the thorns in our side is the absolute difficulty we have getting information out of the Government. We as the Official Opposition represent a large portion of the Canadian population. At this point, we represent the majority of Canadians. We should have the right to know what is behind these Bills and what information is discussed in secret. When we go to a Ministry today, we are boondoggled with bureaucratise. We are not given any direct answers on any subjects. It is time that the Government accept the Freedom of Information Act in the spirit in which it was considered and in the way it was put through the House in the first place. Keeping a secret from the people is wrong. It is not fair to the people.

Just as an aside, Mr. Speaker, I am from Ontario. I should be standing here defending the farmers of Ontario. However, the farmers of Ontario are self-sufficient. The grain growers in the West will be relegated to being only grain growers. I would like to know what the Government is thinking when it is not giving the fifty-fifty option to the farmers and the railways. What will happen to the livestock industry? What will happen to the grain processing industry in the West? Those are serious questions, Mr. Speaker. What may possibly happen is what happened to the drilling industry in the West. The National

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Energy Program killed the oil drilling industry in western Canada. This program will kill the secondary industries in Canada.

We need to broaden our manufacturing base. We need to convert more raw materials into finished products. I cannot think of any more logical approach than feeding cattle in the West, butchering them and sending them in refrigerated cars to Ontario, at which point they would be perfectly tender, edible and ready for market.

It is wrong for the Government to have taken so much away from the farmer. If the Government would give half the amount involved in this Bill to the farmers it would then be giving more to the farmers than ever before in the past. As far as the railways are concerned, I shall not shed a tear for them. They have been subsidized and looked after for long enough. This Bill provides a further subsidy to the railways.

I really must return to the point that the manufacturing sector in central Canada is very important. If money is taken out of the hands of the farmers, then, as mentioned by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), those farmers cannot buy another car. That is what we in central Canada make. We make cars and refrigerators and stoves and consumer products of all kinds. We manufacture textiles for use throughout the country. If those funds are removed from the farmers through a tax, we are hurting the rest of Canada.

I do not think the Government really understands the implications of this. I think it should go back and review what has transpired since the National Energy Program was implemented. I think this additional tax is a burden on all of the taxpayers of Canada because it is paid for by the farmer. Thus it takes money out of his pocket that he could spend on finished products.

I trust that somewhere down the line the Government will come forward with a provision to allow the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy), who is answerable to Members of this House, to be provided with information. Members of the Senior Grain Transportation Committee at this time are all Liberals. I am worried that when our Party forms the next Government that committee will still be composed of Liberals. Then when the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) tries to get information from them they might refuse it. That would not be right, and we would be hurt by it. The country would be hurt by it and nobody in Government would know. Perhaps the present Minister of Transport, who may not be in the House then, may be able to get that information, yet the Hon. Member for Vegreville might not be able to get it.

This entire Bill must be re-thought. The Minister of Transport employed a very clever and intelligent man to do a study on this subject. He came up with a solution that was acceptable to all Canadians until it hit the Liberal caucus. The Liberal caucus stopped that proposal from going to the House in the way it was originally conceived. That is inequitable and unfair. I plead with the Government to return to the House with more amendments which, if fair to the farmers, we will not debate but will accept very quickly.