

Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants (Mr. Nowlan)—have had to listen year in and year out to a litany of inadequacy of service, particularly in the ferry services on the East Coast. I remember that we boys from the Prairies were fully in support and in sympathy with our colleagues from Atlantic Canada. What did we get? We got a \$16.1 million cut.

Being a nice, good Edmonton boy sitting there with that benign and saintly countenance, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you would agree that those ferry services need not be cut, but need to be improved. Any money expended on those services is an essential part of the fair treatment which Canadians should receive, no matter where they live. We must quit discriminating against people because of where they live. The NDP maintains that the ferry services on the East Coast and the West Coast should be treated as part of the highway system. They should be toll-free. The municipalities, the provinces and the federal Government do not charge tolls on the Trans-Canada Highway or other major roads. Surely it is not appropriate to charge for the ferry services.

CN Marine will now be a separate Crown corporation. That might make CNR look better because its deficit will be lower. It might make the CNR happy, but it does not do a thing for marine services in Atlantic Canada. The money will go from one losing operation into a separate losing operation. The Government calls it a cut of \$21.5 million. The Government is taking it out of one pocket and throwing it away.

Finally, I want to say to the Minister of Transport that I fully agree with and support many of the points which were announced in Prince Albert, and reiterated by the Prime Minister in Toronto, concerning the Western Grain Stabilization Act. I expect the Minister of Transport to announce within a very few days that he will be implementing what he and his Leader promised—a freeze. They promised a freeze on the western grain freight rates in July and August. At best, that should mean that the freeze should take effect as of August 1 last. They made that promise during the election campaign. The Minister objected when I quoted what he said at the Transport Committee meeting of last September. He said that was not what was promised during the election campaign. I am asking the Minister and his Leader to do what was promised during the campaign. I do not expect the Minister to implement NDP policy but, at best, I do expect him to implement the freeze retroactive to August 1. At worst, I expect him to order the freeze as of today. The rates should revert to what they were on July 31. When the court case is settled, the rates may revert back to what they were on January 1. I would ask the Minister to carry out that commitment on the grain freight rate freeze.

There has been a cut in the rehabilitation of the Prairie branchlines which is part of a \$50 million cut. The rehabilitation of those branch lines will be delayed unless the Government intends to renege on its promises and commitments to not only retain, but complete the rehabilitation of the Prairie branchline system. All it is doing is putting it off for another day. I am suspicious, Sir, when things continue to be put off. The next thing you know they are not going to be done.

Supply

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I hope the Minister of Transport, or his second in command, will rise and tell us what they are doing to carry out what was said in Prince Albert on July 5, and what was said in Toronto on August 27. If this is going to be implemented, then my colleagues and I will applaud them for it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments?

Mr. Gagnon: Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to this debate for some time with interest. I find it amazing that the Hon. Members opposite still believe in the perpetual motion machine. In science there have been two myths thought to be believable, but which have been proved false. One myth is the perpetual motion machine, and the other was advanced by the alchemists of the Middle Ages who spent their time trying to turn base metals into gold. Today there is a modern myth believed by the socialists that somehow with a snap of the finger they will be able to spend all the money they want without any fiscal responsibility. This Government is showing some fiscal responsibility, but these Hon. Members opposite are saying, "Let us not cut back, let us spend, spend, spend".

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I will say to my hon. friend that all I was asking is that he and his colleagues implement what his Party said they would implement in the coming year and the year after. That is all. I am not asking that they go on any kind of a "socialist spending binge"—in the mind of my hon. friend—I am just asking that they do all of the things for which his colleagues stood in the committee on transport and in this House of Commons, yea, these many years I have been here. If that is a spending binge, then I believe the Conservative Party should now be honest and say to us here in this House, and to the people of Canada, that they have changed their minds about what they told us they would do last July and last August. If they do that, fine. Everyone is entitled to a change of mind. But do not give us the typical Liberal "crap" which we have heard for the last 20 years. Do not promise it and then space it out for another year, another year and yet another year. The Government should make up its mind to do it or not to do it and quit kidding around about it. All we are asking the Government to do is to implement what it said it would do in July and August.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to briefly comment on the remarks of my colleague, the Hon. Member opposite. The Hon. Member makes particular reference to the fact that he has been around "yea, these many years". We know that he is rapidly becoming an institution of the House. Perhaps it is beginning to show in what he has to say. It is patently apparent, Sir, that there is an absence of reality in what he says. In 1974, the circumstances of the Canadian economy were not quite what they are today. In 1979 and 1980, the circumstances of the Canadian economy were not quite what they are today. Indeed, many things have changed. The only thing which has not changed is the New Democratic Party policy, which is circa 1954. That is where the Hon.