

Western Grain Transportation Act

driver gets, but even more a question of economic development for the entire West. It has been narrowly prescribed as simply a western issue. It is not just a western issue. This is an issue that affects central Canada. It deals with the automotive industry, the farm machinery industry, the fertilizer industry and manufacturing. Crow rate and manufacturing should be synonymous. If you steal money from the farmers of western Canada and from the treasuries of the western Provinces, central Canada feels the pinch and the pain. A regulatory measure that relates to transportation objectives requires more than one hour of debate, because it has a tremendous economic impact on all of Canada. Yet this club thinks it deserves only an hour, knowing full well in that hour that it is simply yeas or nays to a majority, where there is no chance for public opinion to reach for their telephone. Three days does not give enough time to reach for a pen and write, with a postal system like we have today. Motion No. 48 makes a reasonable request of the Government in asking for the opportunity to allow a reasonable amount of time for debate.

The NDP's response to the motion is that it be without limit. It may be argued that it ought to be a little longer than three days, but obviously within the framework of Parliament it could never be without limit.

Again, I submit to you that our motion is a reasonable one in light of the fact that we are facing one of the most major economic development pieces of legislation ever to face the Parliament of Canada. It is big in scope and its impact. It is also complicated. The fact that it is complicated requires that there be more than a one hour debate.

As one who comes to this place from the regions of Canada, I face a Government whose members are all collected around industrial Canada and which believes that the western people can be shunted aside and run over. This is because the Government is not regionally relevant; it does not represent the regions. Yet the economic impact on the regions of this legislation is such that if they misstep in putting the Crow in place, whether it be changed or otherwise, the impact falls back economically and heavily upon the industrial manufacturing base of central Canada.

One of the facts that I have observed is that any time a farmer in western Canada has extra money in his bank account he does what every other Canadian would do; he spends it. If he buys a new Canadian-made refrigerator it is made in central Canada. If he buys a new Canadian-made car it is made in central Canada. If he buys a new Canadian-made tractor it is made in central Canada. The clause that we are talking about now which deals with the performance objectives of transportation, which is what brings money to western Canada, is a clause that says we are dealing not just with transportation but with a whole economic development program for all of Canada. The magnitude of that program requires more than an hour of debate.

The Government's intent to limit debate to one hour is not just an insult to the West; it is an insult to—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for London-Middlesex (Mr. Bloomfield) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Bloomfield: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member would not want to mislead the House. I think it is well known that one of the tractors that is built in Canada is built in Winnipeg, that being the Versatile.

Mr. Malone: I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, what point the Hon. Member wants to make. If he is trying to say that because there is one tractor company located in western Canada, somehow the development of our regions does not have an impact on the whole country, what an insult that that Member represents for his people here.

The fact of the matter is that we should not be talking in this House about western Canada, eastern Canada, central Canada, English Canada and French Canada. We should be Canadian. If the Government opposite realized that it could be more than just a little club in the middle, if it could reach to its two oceans as the Latin words on our Dominion emblem say, "From sea to sea", then we would not have to face a Government which thinks it can point out because there is a tractor company in Winnipeg, therefore the Crow rate is not relevant to them. We are all interdependent on one another. That is what makes this country.

Some of the Hon. Members opposite would like to form us into some kind of economic community with eastern Canada, central Canada, Prairie Canada and British Columbia as members. The truth of the matter is that because we are a country we should have an economic concept of total development. That is why Motion No. 48 is important. It is important because it asks for an appropriate amount of time on an issue that is big enough to demand that amount of time and for the reason that it would impact on all of us. We need not be insulted by a Government that has run this country like a club, a little group of people at the middle who think somehow they can govern without representation. They never once mentioned the Crow rate in the last election. It was three and a half years ago, in April, 1980, that we had the last Speech from the Throne. This country is bigger than that. This issue is bigger than that. It needs more than an hour of debate. It needs a minimum of three days so that we can have a proper airing of the issues.

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

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, before the House today we have three motions. I know the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) was speaking basically about one of them. The first motion is in the name of the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). It is a motion which would amend Clause 22 of the Bill and I want to say a few words about that.

Clause 22 of the Bill talks about what will happen when regulations are made under Section 21(1). This subsection gives the Minister through the Governor in Council the power to establish regulations. You have been here roughly as long as