

Adjournment Debate

action and made a good decision, I hope he will put that in his next Householder so that the people in Medicine Hat can see that we have a good Minister of Transport.

● (1825)

The Hon. Member for Medicine Hat should be very happy with the Minister of Transport since the Western Grain Transportation Act significantly expands the list of crops which are eligible for shipment under the statutory rate, alfalfa meal, pellets or cubes, beans and their derivatives, canary seed, flax seed, lentils, mustard seed, sunflower seed, triticale and peas, as well as, canola meal and oil, have all been added to the list of crops which previously could be shipped under the Crow rate.

Most products move in boxcars, hopper cars or tank cars, but some of these new crops do move in containers. It is the Government's position that Section 50 and Section 51 of the Act are clear. Alfalfa or any other eligible crop is entitled to move at the statutory rate whether it moves in containers or by other more traditional means.

The railways under Section 50 and Section 51 are permitted to charge a higher tariff where cars other than boxcars, hopper or tank cars, are used. However, the increase above the statutory rate may only be the amount of the actual additional costs incurred as determined by the CTC. In any event, such

increased charges require application to the CTC. As the railways to date have not applied to the CTC for the right to charge higher tariffs for container movements they are legally entitled to charge no more than the statutory rate for shipping alfalfa in containers. If they are in fact charging more than the statutory rate, it is a clear contravention of the Act. In this regard, the Minister of Transport has sent a telex to the presidents of the railways indicating that unless or until the CTC grants higher tariffs, the Government expects the railways to move alfalfa and similar commodities at the statutory rate.

It is understandable that in this initial period of adjustment under the new Act there will be some problems and misunderstandings by the various parties involved. But hopefully, with everyone's co-operation, they can all be resolved. I read the answer of the Minister in *Hansard* of January 20, and I know that the Hon. Member appreciated that answer. He quickly moved to settle the situation at the request of the Hon. Member for Medicine Hat.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): A motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 6.28 the House adjourned without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.