

it is left to its proper and just role, the sale of grain in the international marketplace.

What did the Hon. Member for Skeena try to make us believe? He said, "I no longer wonder why the Tories do not speak". We had some 66 committee meetings across the Prairies. All told, there were 86 Members days for the entire New Democratic Party caucus. All 31 of its Members showed up for a total of 86 Member days. Two of our Members were there for 138 days. The Hon. Member for Skeena places himself on a high pedestal. He claims that he is knowledgeable about grain transportation. He is the great wheat farmer from Skeena! The great wheat farmer from British Columbia never showed up for a single committee meeting, according to the minutes of the Standing Committee on Transport.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. For the sake of the record, I would like to inform the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) that I am the environment and northern development critic, not the transport critic.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to know that he is the critic of something for his caucus. The point is that he hallucinated here, trying to make the claim that he no longer wonders why the Tories do not speak. Two of our Members were present for a total of 138 Member days, whereas the entire NDP caucus present for only a total of 86 Member days. Their record in terms of what they do in the House is simply unbelievable.

I would like to return to Motions Nos. 55 and 56. The NDP position that the Wheat Pool should have control of the grain cars is interesting. Also it is interesting to note that 2,000 of those cars are owned by the Canadian Wheat Board and 12,000 are owned by the provincial Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Members of the NDP would like us to believe that the situation is such that somehow they need to protect the control of the Canadian Wheat Board. Canadian farmers have found that when they have a transport agency to which they can go with transportation difficulties, they have been able to pinpoint and resolve their problems faster than when they go to the Canadian Wheat Board. The Canadian Wheat Board was comprised of people who were busy carrying out Canadian Wheat Board activities. They were involved in selling and international negotiations, and they were frustrated part of their day by looking after the car situation. Farmers believe that there was more efficiency in the measure brought forward by the Conservative Government in recent history when the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) was the Minister of Transport. From that time to the present we have seen a more efficient movement of grain in terms of the availability of cars.

NDP Members would like to steal away the successes we have accomplished and return to a system with an agency that principally works with the sale and marketing of grain rather than getting back to the nuts and bolts of fixing up the railways and getting the cars in place. Anyone who deals with the Canadian Wheat Board today will tell us that its credibili-

ty was enhanced when it did not have to take the brunt of looking after the organization of cars. I notice Mr. Speaker is nodding; I appreciate your approval of that argument. Hon. Members of the NDP are always taking the position that if we try to establish another agency for the movement of grain, we diminish the power of the Canadian Wheat Board. I appreciate the fact you understand, Mr. Speaker, that by taking away the heat from the Wheat Board, we enhance its credibility in the eyes of the farmers.

Turning to the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse), my goodness, he is a great Member because he attended 45 days of meetings. The Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) attended 17 meeting days. That is the end of the Party's list. Two of them had an incredible record! The next highest is six meeting days, the highest of the next three NDP Members on the list. Let me read the first seven Members of our Party—60 days, 63 days, 62 days, 66 days, 54 days, 28 days and 25 days. The NDP would like the whole country to believe that somehow they travelled all across the country listening to farmers defend their views. Now they are defending the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mrs. Mitchell: I made four speeches.

● (2300)

Mr. Malone: The Hon. Member says she gave four speeches, one right after the other that day. She is here now speaking on one of the most important issues ever to affect western Canada and saying, "I gave four speeches on that one day; I want all the credibility you can give me because I was there fighting for my country, four speeches that afternoon". They make a mockery out of that. The truth is that what we want in this country is an efficient transportation system. It is not a case of trying to salute whether or not it is the Wheat Board that is the great Magna Carta of the universe. It is not a case of trying to pick out some agency. It is a case of trying to put together a system that works. If the Wheat Board can handle its principal job of sales, if an agency can handle the principal job of allocating the cars and if we do not have to have a mismash in the farmer's mind concerning who does what and who hawls out the other for not fulfilling his responsibilities, that makes more sense.

Because the New Democratic Party politically recognizes that farmers appreciate the Wheat Board, it thinks that everything it has done in the past must be preserved, irrespective of some improvements we might make for the future. Because it uses that simple form of argument to find that which is labelled "good", then anything associated with it it calls good and tries to say it is on the side of the farmers. That Party is simply wrong. There is nothing to prove that better than the speech of the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton). What an interesting speech. What a loathsome speech. It said and meant nothing. It had nothing to do with transportation. He said we falsified our data and could not give any evidence of it. The best evidence we can give as to their credibility is the fact that, all told, they gave 86 Member days to the committee and two of our Members gave 138 days.