

*Western Grain Transportation Act*

Meanwhile, the Chair asks the indulgence of the House to let the debate continue until the Chair can do its best to sort out the matters placed before it. The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) on a point of order?

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, it is really in the form of a question. Right now you are considering the previous point of order put by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans). I wonder how you can accept a motion from—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The Chair has not accepted any motions at this point. The Chair has given the floor to the Hon. Member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski).

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, upon rising at this particular juncture to participate in the debate, I would like to say that I was somewhat amazed when I heard the comment of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) who is proposing these changes that there should be so much opposition to his suggested changes. The Minister, as one well knows, comes from the Province of Quebec where the people take the issue of culture very seriously, and so they should. He was one of the members of the Pepin-Roberts Commission which studied the question. Of course, it was with the intent that a particular grievance in a particular part of the country had to be dealt with. What this Minister apparently is not aware of, as well as, apparently, all the Government Members, is that the Crow rate itself is part of western culture, and so it has become.

While many people regard Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta as the Prairies, it is not really so because while the CBC would have us believe that the people settled on the grass of the Prairies, much of western Canada was developed by the sweat of the brows of people settling there from many parts of the world. They did it by swinging the axe and many of us have participated in that development personally. I wonder if Hon. Members know what it is like to work in the heat? I see an Hon. Member here who originally came from my constituency. He knows what it is like. He knows that under the heat of the sun on a day like today every tree had to be hacked away. That land had to be developed by the sweat of the brows of these people who see in this Bill something being taken away. What they see is the Government telling them that all their efforts are for naught because the Government is going to change their way of life. It says so itself. The Government says it is going to change and transform western Canada. In other words, what has happened before has got to go by the board.

There has been opposition to this. Already two good amendments have been accepted by the Minister of Transport. How did they come about? Not by keeping silent.

The Indian wants his culture, and so he should. We in western Canada want it to be recognized that we played a part in the development of this country. It is for this reason, which goes beyond the development of a railway, which is strictly economical in terms of development of one particular segment of the economy, that we plead with this Government, and it is for that reason we have put up 52 speakers, as opposed to the

23 of the New Democratic Party and the eight of the Liberals. The composition of the committee is six Liberal Members, three Conservative Members and one New Democratic Member. It is there where the Government is going to open up. Why? Because it will overpower opposition Members.

• (1210)

The Hon. Member for Vegreville very clearly enunciated 14 points. Up until now the Minister has answered two of those points. He says he draws the line there. Why? Were the other 12 points not valid? Surely they are going to be considered in committee. If so, he must have had a chance to study them by now. If they are going to be valid in committee, they should be valid now. When will the answers be coming forward? Has the Minister or anyone else explained why the other suggestions or points are not to be put forward and are not valid? They had a golden opportunity to do this. We have already had some changes as a result of debate. A fifty-fifty payment was suggested and since then the Government has withdrawn this.

We came forward with another option concerning the right of the farmer to decide whether he gets the money himself or it should go to the railways. That evolved as the result of debate, not as a result of silence. The Government wants to impose silence upon us. For what justifiable reason? Just to hide this issue. When we debate an issue in this House it is on television, but in committee it is buried very silently with only a few reporters covering the proceedings and only the few people who care to read those proceedings know what has happened.

What we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is pointing an accusing finger at this Government which is trying to destroy western culture. I suggest it is time we call a spade a spade. For example, some of the mish-mash this Government is suggesting is that there will be some sort of a 10 per cent safety net. The Government throws in a little bit of this, a little bit of that. My wife does a lot of cooking and she throws in a little bit of this and little bit of that. Of course, she knows what she is doing but, watching from the sidelines, I do not. The Government might suggest that there is a safety net of 10 per cent. Nonsense. What about the amount in excess of the 31.1 million tonnes? Where does that enter into it? Has the Minister explained that? He has not. What about 6 per cent inflation? Has he explained that to my satisfaction or the satisfaction of anyone else? No, he has not bothered. He says: "Trust me". I am not going to trust someone who keeps silent, someone who will bury this Bill in a committee and then railroad it through.

What can one say in ten minutes, Mr. Speaker? Very little. I could go on and on, but because of the time limitation I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Vegreville:

That this debate be now adjourned.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The House has heard the motion. All those in favour of the motion please say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea.