

Business of the House

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Mayer: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader, in the interests of facilitating debate and improving Bill C-155, an Act to facilitate the transportation, shipping and handling of western grain and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, if the Government would be prepared to waive notice and consent to allow the following motion to be put to the House:

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 70 by striking out deleting Lines 27 to 37 at Page 37 and Lines 1 to 14 at Page 38 and substituting the following therefor:

"70(1) For the purpose of applying this Act in respect of the period beginning on January 1, 1984 and ending on July 31, 1986, notwithstanding anything in this Act,

(a) the rate a railway company may charge to a shipper for the movement of grain shall not exceed the rate scale provided in Schedule II;

(b) the contribution to constant costs referred to in the definition "estimated eligible costs" in section 34(1) shall be zero percent of the volume related variable costs; and

(c) the Commission within thirty days after the coming into force of this Act, shall designate and in the manner it determines publish a list of the railway branch lines or segments thereof in the Western Division that shall be deemed to be grain-dependent branch lines for the 1983-84 crop year."

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. King: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader whether, in the interests of facilitating debate and improving Bill C-155, the Government would be prepared to waive notice and consent to allow the following motion to be put to the House:

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 55 by adding immediately after Line 29 at Page 32 the following:

"(5) The Commission shall undertake to develop a costing system, for possible application after the 1985-1986 crop year, which will allow the railway companies a contribution to constant costs for the movement of grain based on and reflective of new railway investment required to accommodate the movement of grain."

This amendment would leave with the CTC the responsibility to approve the principle of contribution to constant costs based on an assessment of the performance of the railways in fulfilling their obligation to producers in the movement of grain over the period 1984 to 1986. It would further permit the railways sufficient—

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member is giving explanations, I believe.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: He is still reading the amendment?

Mr. King: It is an explanation.

Madam Speaker: It is an explanation, I was right. I am listening. The Hon. Member has finished reading his amendment?

● (1650)

Mr. King: I am finished with the amendment. I thought the House would benefit from the explanation.

Madam Speaker: I am sure they were great words of wisdom, but I am afraid that I cannot allow the Hon. Member to continue. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, I also rise on a point of order concerning House business. I would ask the Government House Leader whether, in the interest of facilitating debate and improving Bill C-155, the Government would be prepared to consent to waive the usual notice and allow the following motion to be put to the House.

[Translation]

(a) by striking out line 14 at page 34 and substituting the following therefor:

[English]

"59. (1) The Minister shall, during the 1985—

(b) by adding immediately after line 6 at page 35 the following:

(2) The Minister shall cause a copy of the results of any review or study carried out under this section to be laid before Parliament on any of the first twenty days that either House of Parliament sits after the completion of such review or study and such copy shall stand permanently referred to any committee of Parliament established for the purpose of reviewing matters relating to transportation."

I do so, Mr. Speaker, in the interests of parliamentary democracy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The proposal has been read. No explanation is needed. Does the House grant its unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, I would like to ask the Government House Leader whether, in the interest of facilitating debate and improving Bill C-155, the Government would be prepared to consent to allow the following motion to be put to the House:

That Bill C-155 be amended by adding immediately after line 3 at page 1 the following:

1. It is hereby declared that an economic, efficient and reliable grain transportation system making the best use of all available modes of transportation at the lowest, reasonable total cost is essential to protect the interests of the grain producers and to maintain the economic well-being and growth of western Canada, and that these objectives are most likely to be achieved under conditions ensuring that:

(a) grain producers retain the benefit of a statutory freight rate and are protected from freight rate cost increases disproportionate to international grain prices;