

I suppose the position taken by the Liberal Government is simply this; it really does not have to participate because its allies are speaking on its behalf. In western Canada there is a question which is asked, "What do you get when you add 23 per cent to 14 per cent?" The answer in western Canada is that you get the old Liberal-NDP coalition. That is what one finds if one looks at the Gallup poll. When it comes to Wheat Board issues or matters pertaining to western Canada, the Liberals know they have their allies to support and sustain them in government on every important issue. It is understandable, I suppose, that Hon. Members opposite are not speaking.

I would like to deal with the essence of what has been said here. This matter came up in committee. It is a question of looking at the amendment which was put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Assiniboia. There were all sorts of legal advice which committee members received about the precise way in which this legislation should be put. The Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) makes reference to his motion No. 40, which states:

The provisions of this Part respecting the duties and functions of the Administrator do not restrict the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board under Section 21(k) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act—

The Hon. Member says that is a superior protection for the Wheat Board. I know we had the benefit of legal counsel but, quite frankly, I like the unequivocal way in which it was put by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Assiniboia. He has not limited the matter. He has said, "This legislation shall not impinge negatively on the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board." He does refer to one section. He does not refer to one subsection of the legislation. He says that we in this Party, unlike the New Democratic Party, are behind the Canadian Wheat Board 100 per cent. We are not behind them with respect to just Section 21(k) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. We want every power, either those stated as law or those determined by the courts of this land, supported, if it comes down to a contest between this legislation and the powers of the Wheat Board. It is very simple. We believe in putting things in very simple form. The matter was raised in those very terms by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight). These people have been working on that committee for very long hours. Much attention has been paid to give support to the Canadian Wheat Board. They attempted to deal with this legislation in a responsible manner and attempted to bring forward constructive suggestions. Hon. Members, such as the Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers) and the Hon. Member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Hamilton), who were prominent with respect to this legislation, are Members of the Conservative Party. If it were not for the Hon. Member for Regina West, the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) and the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo), the New Democratic Party would have had no representation on that committee. Therefore there are no lectures needed in this House from the NDP as to whether our Members are flip-flopping. As far as we in this Party are concerned, we say what we mean to the western Canadian citizens and the farmers. They understand straight talk. They understand when we make an

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unequivocal statement in support of the Canadian Wheat Board in this legislation. We do not have to couch it in equivocal terms. We do not have to refer to a section of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. We simply say that we support it absolutely, categorically and without equivocation. That, Mr. Speaker, is understood.

I would like to refer to some of the complaints made by the Hon. Member for Regina West with respect to this matter. The Hon. Member said that there was some concern in his Party with respect to the pools and how supportive the New Democratic Party has been for the Wheat Pools and the producer-owned grain companies in western Canada. I blanched, quite frankly, when I heard those statements, because I sat through the hearings in my native Province of Saskatchewan. We sat long hours, from 9 a.m. to midnight every day, and I was proud to be able to sit with my colleagues and try to come to terms with what people were telling us. Anyone who wants to read the transcripts of what transpired at those hearings in Regina will find an unadulterated tirade against the Wheat Pool movement by Hon. Members in the New Democratic Party. It was unceasing and consistent. That Party was up every day, with every one of the witnesses, attacking the Wheat Pools, attacking the whole purpose of the Wheat Pools in Saskatchewan, attacking the delegate system, attacking every fabric of the Wheat Pool movement in western Canada to the point where I could hardly believe it. The CCF Party, which was so supportive, now apparently has changed its tune because it is now apparently under the direction of the CLC and Mr. McDermott. The Hon. Member for Regina West was always talking about how proud he was to be able to reflect the position of the CLC with respect to this legislation.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that it is hard to believe that the NDP has sunk to the position it has now when one thinks back with a certain amount of pride, as a western Canadian, to the principles which were behind the evolution, the creation of the CCF Party. What has happened to that Party now? What has happened to the New Democratic Party? The fact is that it is prepared to support the Liberals as any cost. Any time the Government is in any trouble at all, it always has its western wing there ready to support it. This is of very serious concern, and when we hear the kind of attack which the Hon. Member for Regina West attempted to launch on this particular amendment, we see how desperate that Party is. It does not give us the exact truth. In fact, it makes statements with respect to the position of our Party which are contrary to the truth.

● (1700)

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak on Motions Nos. 39 and 40. As has been pointed out before, they are somewhat the same although the wording is different. As I suppose is to be expected, the NDP motion is stronger and much more supportive of the Canadian Wheat Board. I guess we can say that the NDP has been consistent all the way through this Bill in its protection of the Board at every opportunity. I suppose we also could say that the Liberal-Conservative coalition has been consistent in