

Western Grain Transportation Act

Mr. McKnight: He will, in the next campaign.

Mr. Sargeant: I am sure he will, but it will not do his Party any good.

I am interested in the Tories' commitment to the debate. We have heard them maintaining that they are the real defenders of the Crow, yet if we consider the record of this Party when it was in Government, we find that it was really prepared to do much the same, if not to go even further than the Liberal Government has gone in changing the Crow rate.

I can quote a few little excerpts from a book by a writer named John Gallagher, entitled "To Kill the Crow".

Mr. McKnight: Do you guy gives royalties, Terry?

Mr. Sargeant: No, but it is very worth-while reading. I would recommend it to all Hon. Members, particularly the prairie Members of the Conservative Party to my right. He points out that in all the Provinces, the provincial Conservative Parties have been supportive of changes to the Crow. The former Lyon Government in Manitoba was definitely in favour of changing the Crow. The current Conservative Government in Saskatchewan has sort of nicely pussyfooted around the issue and has basically not been terribly supportive of maintaining the Crow rates, even though it hedges its bets.

In Alberta, Arnold, you know—

Mr. Malone: Alberta bound.

Mr. Sargeant: —what the Lougheed Government's position is on the Crow rate. It is definitely in favour of killing the Crow rate. We all know that during the Conservative Party's term of Government, it was preparing to introduce substantially the same piece of legislation as we have before us today, a rather bad piece of legislation.

If the Conservative Opposition in the House really wants to stop this legislation, if it really wants to stand up for the farmers in western Canada and in Quebec and, really, by extension, the farm machinery manufacturers and steel companies in Ontario, as well as the iron ore companies in different parts of the country, it could do it, but I rather doubt that it will.

An Hon. Member: They are committed to multinational corporations.

Mr. Sargeant: Exactly. The Conservatives are committed to the multinational corporations. They are committed to the CP rail. I am reminded that between 1978 and 1980, for those three years, CP's companies, including Algoma Steel, Canadian International Paper, Canadian Pacific, Cominco, Dominion Bridge, Fording Coal, Maple Leaf Mills and Pan Canadian Petroleum, donated \$190,257 to the Conservative Party.

Mr. Malone: And not one penny to the NDP.

Mr. Sargeant: And not one penny, I am very proud to say, to the New Democratic Party. Therefore, we know where the Conservatives' votes will be. Perhaps, in some perverse way,

they will nevertheless be supporting the Liberal Government in its efforts to change the Crow rates, in its efforts to put more money into the pockets of Canadian Pacific enterprises.

Mr. Thacker: Why is it that you want the payment to go to the railways?

Mr. Sargeant: I am reminded that the Tories can ring bells in the House for a number of weeks for other corporate welfare bums. They can ring bells in the House for weeks in the interest of the oil companies.

Some Hon. Members: But not for the farmers.

Mr. Sargeant: But not for the farmers.

Mr. Thacker: Why do you want it to go to the railways? Tell us that?

Mr. Malone: Guaranteed annual income for the railways, NDP.

Mr. Thacker: I think you'd better put that hat on.

Mr. Sargeant: The twisted logic that one sees around the whole debate is amazing.

Mr. Malone: And hears.

Mr. Sargeant: Oh, yes, and hears from Conservatives and hears from Liberals opposite. We hear how this is to create tens of thousands of jobs, how this will be a big economic stimulus for the country. They speak of putting billions of dollars into the economy of Canada because of the Crow changes. Where is the money to come from? I cannot take money out of my right pocket and put it into my left pocket and suddenly be richer.

Mr. Malone: You don't have any right pockets.

Mr. Sargeant: Where is the money which is to stimulate the economy to be found? It must come out of the pockets of other Canadians. If it comes out of the pockets of prairie farmers, how is that to help the manufacturing industry in Ontario? How is that to help the consumer on the Prairie when \$600 million a year is taken out of the economies of the prairie Provinces? I am astonished by some of the twisted logic that the Liberal Government has used to support its side of the debate on the Crow issue.

Mr. Pepin: One billion dollars added every year.

Mr. Sargeant: The Minister says, "One billion dollars added every year", but I ask the Minister, where is the \$1 billion to come from? It will come from the taxpayers of Canada and from the prairie farmers of Canada.

Mr. Pepin: Yes.

Mr. Sargeant: It might help one sector of the economy, but it will hurt another sector of the economy. On balance, it ain't