

Western Grain Transportation Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair hesitates to interrupt the Hon. Member in view of the interruptions, but having made some allowance for the interruptions, the Chair has come regretfully to the conclusion that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek permission of the House for unanimous consent to continue.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There does not appear to be unanimous consent.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, when I rose earlier on a point of order I did so, wrongly I admit, because of the accusations the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) was making. I use the word "honourable" advisedly. I hesitated to speak on this issue because when it is referred to the committee I shall probably be chairing the committee that will deal with it and I want to ensure that the committee hearings are fair, forthright and complete. However, when a Member of the Opposition gets up and makes the accusation that the Hon. Member for Calgary West made here tonight, it cannot go unchallenged.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): When the Hon. Member, without knowing the motivation of Hon. Members on this side, makes—

Mr. Lambert: The hatchet man!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Yes, acts as a hatchet man, and I thank the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) for his contribution.

Mr. Lambert: No; you!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): When he acts as the hatchet man, when he gets up without knowing what he is talking about and casts reflections on Members on this side of the House who come from areas other than western Canada, and suggests that we are not Canadians, we do not have an interest in Canada as a whole, that cannot go unchallenged.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Waddell: How about talking about the Crow?

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): When he says that we are the people who threw out a Government that was stopping rail line abandonment and leaves it at that, that cannot go unchallenged. He did not say that we were also the Party that stopped a Government that was prepared to impose excessive taxation—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): —and that was prepared to do away with the universality of medicare and

hospitalization, an that was prepared to Balkanize this country, then I cannot sit quietly by and let him get away with it. There are Hon. Members on that side of the House but the speech we just heard was not honourable. It was totally dishonest. I hope that in continuing debate of this matter we will in fact discuss the issue of the Crow rate. It is a situation affecting the livelihood of all Canadians, one which I hope will be debated in full in committee and one which will receive the serious attention to detail that it deserves.

● (2130)

When an Hon. Member of the House rises in an attempt to condemn a Party because its Members were here to vote when his own Party did not, when there were 51 Tories present, on an issue on which they had claimed to be the saviours of the nation except, of course, for the pious protestations of the socialists, one finds it to be stretching credulity to believe that they are really serious. I think that we can give the 51, or at least most of the 51 who were here, credit for being serious because they were here. However, like the story of the ten lepers who were healed, where were the other nine, or the other 69, or whatever it is they have here?

I therefore suggest to all Members of the House that, rather than trying to score rather hypocritical points, rather than trying to inflame the issue, rather than trying to divide Canadians and to protect one area of the country against another, we take a little time. We should all examine our consciences and look to the real motive of the debate, asking ourselves whether we are in fact promoting the unity, the prosperity and the future of this country or whether we are trying to destroy it. If we are trying to unite it, in uniting we had better start talking to one another. We had better start discussing with each other rather than hurling brickbats at each other, inflaming the issue and trying to divide.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Let us try to use reason. Let us remember that what was good in 1897 is not necessarily ideal in 1983. What was good in 1897 does not necessarily promote development, prosperity and growth in 1983. What was good in 1897 does not necessarily meet the needs of 1983. Let us bear that in mind. Let us talk to each other. Let us not talk at each other. Let us try to be a little conciliatory. Let us try to unite rather than divide.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McKnight: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Northumberland-Miramichi has just made a truism out of the statement made by the Hon. Member for York South-Weston (Mrs. Appolloni).

Mr. Stevens: I rise on a point of order.