

Western Grain Transportation Act

Finally, I would like to comment on another matter which came to my attention this week. Before doing so, however, I think we ought to recognize that the matters connected with the ceding of the 50,000 acres was first raised on March 15, if I remember correctly, by the Hon. Member for Kootenay-East Revelstoke (Mr. Parker) and also on May 10 during Private Members' Hour. These 50,000 acres are in his riding and he is duly concerned. I am as concerned as a British Columbian as he is concerned as a British Columbian that the Government is planning to do one thing and not planning to do right by British Columbia by upsetting all the provisions of the Bill.

● (1210)

Another matter on which I would like to speak concerns the representations I have received from the Council of Forest Industries, (COFI) in British Columbia. This time, however, it did not reach me through the office of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) but thanks to Canada Post. It may well be that the author of the letter, because he sits on the board of directors of Canada Post, decided that he would use that particular method of communicating his message to Members of Parliament. I assume that all other Members from British Columbia received the same.

This particular organization COFI is short of the lobby group for the Canadian forest industries. One of its recommendations, its fourth recommendation which it urges us to support, was that "Government funding should preferably be paid to the producers if a subsidy is required". I just put that on the record.

I see that the Speaker is somewhat worried that I might speak beyond my time, but I find it odd that we should be encouraged to support a recommendation that Government funding should preferably be paid to producers if a subsidy is required when it is quite contrary to the purposes of this particular Bill.

No one is quarreling with the need to upgrade the facilities of the railways, double-tracking, more hopper cars and other types of rolling stock. That work has to be done and done soon. I suggest that CN is wasting a great deal of its funds by advertising on television. I have puzzled for a long time why CN should advertise on television. CN is not appealing to individual Canadians for business. It is not selling anything to the individual Canadian any more. It used to when it ran a passenger service. I could understand VIA Rail advertising, but I feel that CN ought to expend its funds a little more judiciously, perhaps by upgrading some of its rolling stock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired. However, as he may be aware, there is a ten-minute question and answer period and possibly he will be entitled to make further comments during that ten minutes.

The House, of course, is well aware that several points of order have been raised, in the main with respect to the matter of the definition of eight hours of debating time. I will try to deal with each of the points in order.

To begin with, I refer Hon. Members to the fact that it is commonly known that on Friday this issue was raised. I happened to be in the chair at the time and I indicated that the ruling would be made today. A few moments ago the Deputy Speaker did in fact rule on that matter, and I understand that the issue of eight hours and the ten-minute question and answer period has now been resolved.

That takes us to a second point which was raised by Hon. Members, again on the definition of what constitutes eight hours of debate, and in this connection particularly the argument of the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) as to whether or not the eight hours as defined within the Standing Orders referred to debate on the main motion or on an amendment—in this case the six-month hoist—or whether they are to be taken together.

One can refer to Standing Order 35(2) and the words "Bill is being considered", to the word "considered", or in the French language, as I mentioned on Friday, to the word "*débat*". Also I refer Hon. Members to Beauchesne's Fourth Edition, page 111, Citation 120 as follows:

The interval between the proposing and the putting of the question, which is usually used for discussion, gives an opportunity for further proceedings such as the moving of an amendment; and this may give rise to a subsidiary debate, with its own question and decision, within the principal debate.

May I repeat those last words "within the principal debate". On the face of it, then, an amendment would be considered within the principal debate and consequently would be subject to the provision of a total of eight hours of time.

For further clarification, I refer Hon. Members to Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, page 225, Citation 740 as follows:

There are three types of amendments that may be proposed at the second reading stage of a Bill. These are:

1. the six months' hoist;—

It is the conclusion of the Chair that an amendment which is in order—and the six-month hoist is one of those which is in order—falls within the scope of Standing Order 35(2) and consequently the application of eight hours of debate applies not only to the main motion but to any one of the three types of acceptable motions at that stage in the proceedings of the House.

With that matter out of the way, we have a third point of order which I understand relates to whether or not points of order themselves and the amount of time they take shall be included in the eight hours of debate. As I was arriving in the Chamber, I noticed the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) was commenting on that.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That has been ruled on by the Deputy Speaker already.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I want to inform Hon. Members that I am aware of the wording of the Deputy Speaker who was in the chair at that time. It may be that Hon. Members will want to check *Hansard* very carefully in that regard. The quote that my memory tells me is accurate is that the Chair informed the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich, I believe it was, that "the point is well taken". In any event,