

Western Grain Transportation Act

Mr. Domm: What? They do not support them? Well, what happens in the West when there is a problem with grain movement? They look to the NDP who literally abandon them with their concern about property rights. I come from a riding, Peterborough, which as some people might not be aware, is made up primarily of union members and unions like the United Electrical Workers and United Steel Workers. They told the labour organizers of the NDP that they were not going to be told how to vote at election time. That is not the way you get responsible Government. The day that the labour unions rely on the NDP will be the day that their interests are sorely neglected.

Concerning the legislation before us dealing with the Crow, some Members of the Government and the NDP may be concerned as to why someone from central Canada would be interested in speaking on the Crow, which is perceived by a lot of people in Ontario to be a western issue. In reality it is not a western issue. It strikes fundamentally at our system of Government, our traditions and customs which have long been abandoned by the NDP, not to mention the Government of the day. Let us examine the Bill for what it really is, let us throw light on the subject. It is nothing more nor less than a scheme to reorder rural life in western Canada. It is like changing acres to hectares for the westerners. They would not stand for that. They do not appreciate the fact that the NDP in central Canada, and some Members from western Canada, would fall in the trap of the Liberal Government of the day and be so willing and so quick to charge the Conservatives with not doing their bit in the fight against the Crow. In reality we will put up two if not three times the number of speakers they have put up.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Domm: You see, Mr. Speaker, that is what you can do when you have a true national Party. That is one thing the Government cannot do. The Government cannot speak to the Crow where it affects the people through their representation in Parliament. The Government is void of credibility on the subject. When the Government brings in legislation that abandons 20 per cent of the VIA Rail service across Canada against the wishes of the CTC and against the recommendation of every reputable board or commission in Canada, then it is not being responsible in its duty to the people of the West.

We came to discuss the Crow, Mr. Speaker, and something was going to be taken away. Then the Liberals received from Quebec the hue and cry that they did not wish the farmers of the West to receive the subsidies; they wanted it to go to the railways. Then the Government had the gall to say on national television and in the media that it was going to do what Quebec wanted because Quebec had more votes.

The NDP and the Liberals have run out of speakers. They do not have enough representatives across Canada to carry a debate in the House against the Government which is running roughshod over the Canadian people on all issues. So I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Government, to show its sincerity about discussing this issue to its fullest, agree with

the NDP once more, just as it is so capable of doing when the crunch is on. Let it say that after each speaker has finished speaking, there will be a question period in order that the confused NDP Members can get their questions to Members of the Progressive Conservative Party in order to get them answered in the House of Commons.

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, that was really quite an amusing if somewhat neanderthal dissertation we just heard. I believe I heard the Hon. Member mention the Crow rate once or twice in his speech. The Crow rate is too modern and it is pretty hard for him to defend something that modern or that new.

• (1950)

I was interested in his comments that his Party protects free enterprise and is preserving small business. I have been interested in the reaction of some of the gas station owners in Peterborough who are losing business to a gas station operated by a bunch of fairly wealthy Members of Parliament.

Mr. Smith: Name them.

Mr. Sargeant: That is some preservation of small business in his home constituency. I never fail to be amazed by the insults to the electorate of Canada which the Conservative Party Members continue to heap on that electorate when they continually deny that it was the voters who kicked their incompetent Government out of office three and a half years ago.

Mr. Althouse: It was the Tory delegates.

Mr. Sargeant: It was the Tory delegates, my friend said. My goodness! Any Government that was incapable of counting was hardly worth keeping in office. The people of Canada demonstrated that when they went to the polls the last time.

It was also interested in his referral to the Neil report. With all due respect to my friend, the Hon. Member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil), the Neil report was hardly greeted with open arms in my part of the country. I know that one of the main subdivisions in my constituency is the Inwood subdivision, one of only four lines, I believe, which run up through my area and one of the two lines which really runs into the heart of the grain country in my constituency. The Neil report recommended shutting the line down.

Hon. Members know that there are two or three small farming communities which have been around for, oh, a number of decades now, notably Broad Valley and Fisher Branch. If the Inwood subdivision is ever shut down, they may well die, which may well do away with communities which have a tradition in the area and the way of life for many of the people living there. We have all seen ghost towns dotted across the Prairies. I do not think we really want any more of them.

It is a very nice, small community, Arnold. You would probably enjoy it. You should visit it sometime.

Mr. Malone: Crowfoot.