

*Western Grain Transportation Act*

**Mr. Mazankowski** moved that the Bill be read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I want to spend approximately three or four minutes—

**Some Hon. Members:** Too many.

**Mr. Benjamin:** All right. I will make it two. I believe that under the rules I have 30 minutes, but I promise not to take that long.

In winding up the debate at third reading of this legislation, I want to remind the House and the Minister that there were other amendments that were not accepted or defeated which will crop up again in another year or two.

I also remind the Minister and the Government that, as I said in December of 1983, the Crow may be sorely wounded, but it isn't dead. Therefore, I say to the Minister that we are pleased that he accepted one amendment tonight and one yesterday. I believe that he probably sympathizes a great deal with many other amendments but could not persuade his Cabinet colleagues to accept them. If he wants our help at any time in the coming year or two, we will be glad to provide it.

I remind the Minister that according to the amendments to the Western Grain Transportation Act in this Bill, during the review process in the next two years there will be no application before the Canadian Transport Commission for variable rate implementation, no moves either by legislation, propaganda or press releases about changing the method of payment while the review process is going on. I will be glad not to make any speeches on that matter if the Minister will agree to do the same thing out in western Canada.

We are not letting this go through because we like it. We still have mixed feelings and the Minister's amendments so far have not done any more harm to the statutory grain rate provisions for western grain producers. However, I want to serve notice on him now than in a year or two he better keep in mind what occurred in 1983 and what has occurred in the past week with this legislation.

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to follow the good example set by my colleague and deal rather briefly with third reading of Bill C-44.

The Official Opposition has agreed that the report stage be immediately followed by Third Reading, so that this Bill to amend the Western Grain Transportation Act might be passed tonight. But as I said in committee, these amendments are only the very first of a whole series of amendments which the government will have to introduce within the next few months, if not within the next few years.

As members of the Official Opposition, we are going to watch very closely the whole review process in the case of the Western Grain Transportation Act. It is vital for Canadian producers that this review be carried out most objectively, so that they get a fair deal whether they live in Western Canada

or Eastern Canada. It is clear that Quebec producers in particular are seeking a fair deal for all, and if they are somewhat concerned and apprehensive it is about the government's intentions with regard to payments, and whether they will be made to the railways or directly to the producers.

I cannot help being concerned about the intentions of the Minister and this Progressive Conservative government. The Hall report has now been made public; the Minister of Transport who has it will have to make a decision within the next few weeks or months, before introducing new amendments to the Western Grain Transportation Act.

I want to make sure that the Minister of Transport fully realizes the importance of giving a fair deal to all Canadian producers from coast to coast.

● (2140)

[English]

**Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fitting as Vice-Chairman of the Transport Committee that I thank Members of Parliament who took part in the discussion of the Bill which the Transport Committee discussed. As the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) said, he gave assurances to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) that he is a competent person and will in the years to come look after the transport situation and our farmers.

Let me say, and pardon the expression, Mr. Speaker, a virgin of truth, that as a new Member of Parliament I do not wish to go on record as being a blabber mouth but whether we are Conservatives, Liberals or New Democrats we cannot play politics in transport. I think the Minister has expressed that with what he has done in this Bill. I look forward to the co-operation of Members in years to come and I thank them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the third time and passed.

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## JUDGES ACT

### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (for the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)** moved that Bill C-61, an Act to amend the Judges Act, the Federal Court Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the National Defence Act in relation to judicial matters and to amend an Act to amend the Judges Act and the Federal Court Act in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: I think by unanimous consent we had agreed to have the matter after second reading referred to a Committee of the Whole, concurrence, third reading and all stages so that the Senate may deal with this matter. If the motion could be