

*West Coast Ports Operations Bill*

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, I wonder whether you intend to rule whether this amendment is in order. It appears to me to be a substantive amendment which is out of order. I wonder if you have ruled or will rule whether it is in order.

**Some hon. Members:** He accepted it.

**The Chairman:** I have discussed this with my colleague who was in the chair at the time, and it is my understanding that the amendment is before the committee. At this particular point, my position is that the committee will have to decide on the amendment.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to put the position of our party before you. Although I am very impressed with the intent of my friend's amendment, and I say this with all due respect, perhaps if there had not been all the excitement which occurred last night the Chair might have seen that this is a substantive amendment. It certainly negates the intent of clause 8. I think we are here primarily to deal with the strike as it exists in the province of British Columbia and to get the men back to work in order that the grain handlers may also pursue their vocation.

I have every sympathy with the hon. member for Moose Jaw who on August 31 at page 3929 of *Hansard* said:

We recognize the importance of this situation, and this amendment would require that some consideration be given to the setting up of a study to determine a better method of moving grain out of the country.

With the interest that my friend has in this matter, Mr. Chairman, surely after giving this some profound deliberation he must know—

**The Chairman:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for interrupting him, but the Chair has some difficulty hearing him.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Chairman:** I appreciate the hon. members have things to discuss, but I would ask that they move behind the curtains so that the committee may proceed.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that you admonished members of the House, but it should be pointed out that the members admonished are to the right of the chair. We are now dealing with their bill but they have no interest in it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Alexander:** The only thing they can do is chat and try to figure out when the election will be called.

Mr. Chairman, I shall not pursue this matter any further, except to say that I think this amendment goes far beyond what we are supposed to be dealing with. If this is true, and I believe it is, notwithstanding what occurred last night with respect to the ruling of the Chair, we in this party will not vote for the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Moose Jaw.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

[The Chairman.]

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Chairman, not having had a ruling from you, I assume that you agree the amendment is in order.

**The Chairman:** Order, please. With respect I think the hon. member for Crowfoot will agree that when he asked me the question when the committee resumed this morning, I said the amendment was before the committee. At this particular point, I do not think it would be helpful to go back and consider whether the amendment is in order. The fact is that the amendment is before the committee and that is the ruling I made. It is before the committee and that is the fact on which the committee must proceed.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Chairman, I do not like to get involved in points of order or rules, but I think it would facilitate my understanding, and maybe that of the committee, if the Chair would advise whether he is prepared to listen to argument for or against the amendment, whether or not it is in order and whether I may make a speech on unions in general. This is my difficulty. I do not know whether to debate the amendment from the point of view that it is out of order, as I believe it to be. If the Chair is ruling that the amendment is in order, I want to make a speech on unions. I have many thoughts on unions and this would be an appropriate time to put them forward. In this particular instance, the grain handlers and the longshoremen's union were prepared to move grain until the head of the union said "No, grain gets no special treatment—all commodities are stopped". Where is the head of the union? He is in Los Angeles. I believe the international head of the longshoremen's union is in Los Angeles. The party to my left supports these unions and thrives on them, but they do not seem to acknowledge the fact that the head of this union deliberately prohibited the grain handlers in the longshoremen's union from going to work and handling the grain which this legislation is brought before Parliament to direct them to do. I have many more thoughts on unions which I should like to put forward, and if the Chair is not going to make a ruling I am prepared to make a speech on the matter.

I see that the Chair is not prepared to make a ruling and therefore I shall say a few more words with respect to unions and this amendment. The hon. member for Moose Jaw moved this amendment purely and simply for political gain so that he may return to his farmers saying that he was on the side of right and that he moved an amendment.

**Mr. Skoberg:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Moose Jaw rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that we are dealing with an amendment that has nothing to do with organized labour or unions whatsoever. We are not dealing with international or national unions. I believe that when a member stands in this House and says that directions have been given from outside this country with regard to this tie-up, he should be able to produce evidence to support his contention. I do not think it is proper that any member should be put in this position when he moves an amendment that has nothing to do with the topic that the hon. member is discussing at this time.