

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 19, 1983

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

The House resumed from Monday, May 16, 1983, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pepin that Bill C-155, to facilitate the transportation, shipping and handling of western grain and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Benjamin (p. 25389).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp).

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I realize that it is the Speaker's prerogative to recognize any Member, but the understanding that I had was that it was this Party's turn to speak. I had understood that in fact the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) was to be on his feet, but as he is unable to be here at the moment, the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) had risen to speak.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair accepts the Hon. Member's intervention. Naturally the Chair wants to be fair to the various Parties present in the House. Unfortunately, I do not yet have at my disposal the list of former speakers; the Chair apologizes for that. Nevertheless, on the basis of Members who have already spoken for each Party, if the Chair has not followed the usual allotment of Members from each Party, perhaps the Hon. Member for Provencher would cede the floor to the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I would like to co-operate. If there were previous arrangements, I am willing to step down and be recognized as the first speaker from our side of the House when our turn in the rotation does take place.

Mr. Taylor: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 16, at 5.56, the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) did take the floor and spoke for the four

minutes that were left. I do not know of any particular arrangement that had been made, but he did take the proper place for the NDP at that time. I think that in fairness the NDP should now have a chance to speak because the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap did not have a chance to speak for very long; he simply filled in the remaining four minutes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I thank the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) for having refreshed the memory of the Chair. In any case, there seems to be agreement now to allow the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East to contribute to the debate.

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues from the Progressive Conservative Party and particularly the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) for allowing me the opportunity to speak this morning. Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment that is now before the House because the amendment basically tells the people of Canada that our Party is not supporting the Bill to change the Crow rate.

Last weekend while I was in Saskatoon, I attended a very interesting and pleasant event. I was able to take part in the one hundredth birthday party of a Saskatoon citizen. Mr. Percy McKague was born on May 15, 1883 and last Sunday he celebrated 100 years of life. Mr. McKague is still a very clear-minded and lively person. He has a little difficulty with his hearing and he has a little difficulty with his sight, but his mind is as fresh as it ever was. He was happy to celebrate with members of his family and with friends who had recently celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary, and I was happy to be with them.

As soon as Mr. McKague was able to recognize who I was when I sat close enough to him and spoke loudly enough so that he could see and hear me, he said: "You are from Ottawa, are you?" I said: "Yes, I am from Ottawa." Then he said: "Well, make sure they keep the Crow. The Crow belongs to the West." He said that in a clear, bell-like tone. We must remember that Mr. McKague, whose family started one of the local funeral parlours at the turn of the century, was speaking from the historic perspective of a person from Saskatchewan. People from Saskatchewan know that the Crow rate gave them some control over their own lives. As Mr. McKague said, the Crow belongs to the West. The East has plenty of things that look after it but the Crow belongs to the West.