

National Transportation Act, 1986

Quite simply the motion would ensure that there is enough personnel to maintain safety in all modes of transportation. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this motion.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on Motion No. 14 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion, the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 114(11), a recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

The next motion is number 15.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West) moved:

Motion No. 15

That Bill C-18, be amended in Clause 19 by adding immediately after line 19 at page 8 the following:

"(2) The Agency may also ensure that ongoing independent research is conducted with respect to Canada's transportation policy and the effectiveness of that policy relative to the public interest."

He said: Mr. Speaker, Clause 19 of the Bill says:

"The Agency may appoint and, subject to any Treasury Board directive in relation thereto, fix the remuneration of experts or persons having technical or special knowledge to assist the Agency in an advisory capacity in respect of any matter before the Agency.

One of the things that is perfectly apparent is that it is the Government's intention to almost totally gut the research capacity of the Canadian Transport Commission. I suppose that might make it a juicy deal for people who obtain contracts as consultants, with fees more expensive than the cost of having your own research capacity.

● (1630)

The amendment asks, still subject to a Treasury Board directive which means that there will be no call for an additional expenditure, that:

"The Agency may also ensure that ongoing independent research is conducted with respect to Canada's transportation policy and the effectiveness of that policy relative to the public interest".

That must be done continually. It will be part of the annual and five-year reviews of the effectiveness of this legislation or portions of it. We think it would be a false economy not to maintain in the agency or attached to the agency an independent research capacity on a continuing basis to take instructions from the agency with regard to the kind of information it needs to have researched and reported on.

I hope the Government will reconsider and accept this motion in the way in which it is presented. It is an attempt to be helpful, to make a bad Bill less bad, and to ensure that the Government and the transportation agency have the proper resources to do a good job.

[Translation]

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, again I should like to support this amendment proposed by my colleague from Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) which provides that:

The Agency may also ensure that ongoing independent research is conducted with respect to Canada's transportation policy and the effectiveness of that policy relative to the public interest.

I think this is self-explanatory. As I pointed out earlier, it is clear enough that we are rushing towards deregulation. The change is proceeding at a rapid pace and, if we are to see and appreciate just what this new initiative entails, we ought to have independent research facilities to be in a position to assess the impact of this new legislation and find out how it can be effective with respect to the public interest.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is on Motion No. 15 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 114(11), the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

The next motions to be debated are Motions Nos. 16, 17 and 50.