

*Extension of Hours*

I do not think the Government understands the depth of the opposition to this legislation. We can and we will rebuild the railroads. It should be done, not only to move grain to the ports, but to move coal from the coal mines or coal fields of British Columbia to central Canada so that unemployed coal miners will once again be working and we will not have to buy from Ohio and Pennsylvania that which we have in abundance and in better quality in our own country. We need to rebuild the railroads for those purposes.

**An Hon. Member:** And cut back on the amount of acid rain.

**Mr. Deans:** As my colleague says, in the process we would cut back on the amount of acid rain from which we suffer because of the much lower sulphur content in British Columbia coal. It is about .02 or something, as against a range of from 2 per cent to 8 per cent in the coal from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

We are really saying that the rebuilding of the railroads has a two-way benefit. There is a benefit going west to the ports and coming east. We should get on with it, but we must not undermine the economic viability of western and prairie Canada in the process. We cannot ask prairie farmers to take on a burden which they frankly cannot afford. We cannot ask them to take on more now. The Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) knows full well the plight of farmers. The markets they are hoping to gain they will not get, if the price per bushel rises in accordance with the new freight rate arrangements proposed by the Government. They are already in a tough squeeze with every other Government in the world subsidizing their grain farmers.

We just cannot afford to let this Bill pass. We cannot afford to let the extended hours go without objection, without attempting to stop it. We cannot afford to let the Bill go. In other words, I am saying that the battle continues, and the battle would be much easier if the Tories would join us, quite frankly. If the Conservatives would join with us in this battle, it would be an easier battle to win. Combined they cannot defeat us.

**Mr. Lewis:** We are fussy.

**Mr. Deans:** If every last one of us on this side of the House, all 130-odd of us, decide to stop this in the interests of Canada, then we can stop it. We can all stop it together. But if the Tories bail out and allow them to have their way, then they do so at the expense of the viability of the grain farmers of the West and ultimately at the expense of the economy of the West.

I heard the Opposition House Leader say that he is fussy. I had not noticed that before; I will take his word for it. We are prepared to join forces with the Conservatives, despicable though we find them from time to time. We are prepared to join forces with them on a matter as important as this one. We are prepared to find common ground on a matter as important as this one. We are prepared to suffer that association over a short period of time on a matter as important as this one.

Therefore we suggest to Conservatives to pluck up courage and recognize the harm the Government intends for the people we collectively represent. We suggest the Conservative Party decide once and for all that political expediency is no substitute for good judgment and that good judgment in this case is that whatever must be done to stop these proposed changes must be done by us collectively. Whatever their right-wing ideology demands of them, they must remember that farmers are independent souls, working every day with a lot at stake. They will not find a market for the market they will lose if we allow the Government to raise their costs as it is proposing. I ask them to come with us and fight together in July, August and September to ensure that it does not do this.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, others in this place may say that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain is lying when he suggests that the PCs are not opposed to the Crow. The people of Canada may suggest that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain is lying when he suggests that the Conservatives are not opposed to the Crow. But I am not prepared to say that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain is lying when he states that the Progressive Conservatives are not opposed to the Crow. I am not prepared to do that. The people of Canada will know it, other Members of the House will know it, but I am not prepared to say that he is lying.

**An Hon. Member:** Come on!

**Mr. Lewis:** No, I am not prepared to say that.

● (1620)

I do have a question. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain suggested that we join in a great show with the NDP. In view of the fact that last evening the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain voted against spending money on many important social items already approved in the budget, how can we count on his knowing what he is doing when it comes time to vote?

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to enter into the low level of debate that the questioner has entered into. Get out of the gutter.

The fact is that the recently elected Leader of the Conservative Party announced not many days ago that he was in favour of changes to the Crow rate. He said, however, that he thought it was being rushed through too quickly. I can only assume that their newly elected Leader speaks for the Conservative Party. For the Hon. Member to infer that I was not telling the truth is objectionable, but expected from him. One would expect him to say something like that in order to deflect those who are watching and listening from the real truth. The real truth is that the Tories sold out on these proposed changes some time ago. Their only interest is in saving face. Our interest is in saving farmers. If you do not believe what I say about the Leader of the Tory Party, read what he said.