

Western Grain Transportation Act

All of their leadership candidates said that it was a move in the right direction, the right kind of legislation—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) on a point of order.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, have you ever noticed that the NDP has a special school for whiners and snivellers to which they all must go?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) has the floor. He should not be interrupted in the course of his speech.

Mr. Fulton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member who just spoke is the original whiner and sniveller of the House of Commons in this session.

The Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) said that he has not had time for a detailed study of the issue. He was the Leader of the Party for seven years and did not even have time to look at the issue. We know what Members of the Tory Party will do to somebody who stands up for the West. They got rid of him in a heck of a hurry.

I would like to direct a few comments to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin). I am glad to see that he is here and is continuing to follow the debate. I would like to know what his views are on splitting the Bill. There is a certain degree of dishonesty from the Government side that I find unacceptable, that occurs when the Government pushes upgrading without ever having a single Member from the Government side deal head to head with the issue of equity. We hear much chatter in the House about the NDP proposal to get equity back if we give money to the railroads. But no Liberals have told us why that is not a good idea.

I will deal with Jack Horner in a moment because he is probably the one who is telling the Tory Members where to go. We know what Tory Members from the West do. They jump from the Tory side of the House over to the Liberal side and are automatically made head of a Crown corporation so that they can tell the Tories where to go on railway policy.

An Hon. Member: Tell us about the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Ittinuar).

Mr. Fulton: You can tell us about that in a moment. Mr. Speaker, a very good book that I recommend to the Minister of Transport and a few Tories is "To Kill the Crow". I read from the first chapter:

On the day after the announcement of the federal government's determination to repudiate the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, the stockholders of Canadian Pacific Limited were richer by \$134,677,700 than they were the day preceding the announcement.

Perhaps Members of the Liberal and Tory Parties should have gotten together to write a Bill that would simply give money directly to the shareholders of CP, which would save the House from this long, protracted debate.

The book goes on:

By the end of the month the value of their shares in the company had increased by \$447,889,250. Their "Crow Benefit" was not long coming.

It is interesting to note that Members of the Liberal and Tory Parties are prepared to support legislation that will give \$651.5 million a year in perpetuity to the railroad, yet they travel around the country saying, "Oh, the Crow rate for farmers was written in 1897. It is too old. We cannot have legislation in perpetuity. We must have a sunset on the Crow rate when it comes to the farmers."

I will return now to the problem with the Tory position because we know what is the problem with the Liberal position. Liberals will not take a position on equity in terms of upgrading. They will not take a position on returning \$450 billion or \$500 billion worth of coal, to British Columbia. They will not talk about the out of pocket costs to the railroads for moving grain in terms of the balance of trade that grain producers bring to all Canadians, not just to western Canada, nor will they split the Crow rate. I would like to see Government Members vote in favour of taking \$6,000 a year away from farmers in western Canada. That is what the issue really is.

I know that Members of the Tory Party will slip and slide on the issue. They will say, "Oh, freedom of choice". It is freedom of choice to lose \$6,000 a year. I do not think many Members of the Liberal or Conservative Parties would go to textile workers in Toronto and say, "Sorry, \$500 a month must be taken away. That is freedom of choice". Freedom of choice for what? The Tory position is preposterous. As the Tory Party's lead-off speaker on the Crow debate, the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski), given the position of the former Leader and the future possible Leader of the Tory Party, said:

—I ask the Minister to consider making the payment of the Crow benefit optional to the producer or to the railroad. Let the producer decide whether the money should go to the railroad, or let him decide whether it should go to him.

Does the Hon. Member for Vegreville think that a bunch of Liberal donkeys from eastern Canada will turn up and all of the grain will be loaded on them to be taken out to Prince Rupert for free? The farmers from western Canada will not buy that. They know that if grain is to be moved, a cheque may come from Ottawa. But what are Members of the Tory Party supporting? They are supporting a huge new bureaucracy. Those farmers who want the cheque to come to them will have to pay for having the grain hauled.

Tory Members wanted to get Jack Horner a good job with a Crown corporation so they told him to become a Liberal. Now they are looking for jobs for more Tories in a new Crown corporation that would handle the freedom of choice legislation that they are supporting.

Tory policies are like that cheese that comes from Europe, the stuff with the mouseholes in it. I cannot imagine, Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: It stinks.