

Transportation

The Crowsnest Pass Agreement has seriously distorted the development of agriculture in the prairie provinces by keeping us tied to monoculture and discriminating against animal production and meat processing in the Prairies. Our fears were justified, and the situation has become far worse.

There are many others, including the *Edmonton Journal*, which on February 9, 1982, started its editorial with: Well done, Ottawa. On February 8, 1982, the Canadian Press reported that the Premier of British Columbia said, and I quote:

A logical development of government policy, the need for which has been felt for a long time.

And there are many more. My time is almost up, Mr. Speaker, and we should now listen to what the members opposite, the members of the official opposition are going to say, because the position of the New Democratic Party is quite clear. Its members are against any development and against all progress. As my colleague from Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) said, NDP means non-development party. So what is the position of the Progressive Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker? The member for Vegreville, the former Minister of Transport, rose in the House on June 30, 1981, and asked a question, as reported in *Hansard* on page 11080, to which he supplied the answer, when he asked the minister how he was going to, and I quote:

—move the anticipated 70 per cent increase in rail tonnage over the next five years—?

That is ample proof of how urgent the matter is, Mr. Speaker. The former minister of transport, in an article published in the Regina *Leader-Post* of January 20, 1982, said, and I quote:

● (1500)

[English]

"Reform to the Crow would reduce discriminating rates against the oilseed crushing industry in western Canada."

[Translation]

Here are more examples. Perhaps I ought to remind the hon. member for Vegreville of the statement made by one of his constituents, Mr. Norris Hartwell of the United Oilseed Products Ltd. of Lloydminster in Alberta, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* of February 9, 1982, and I quote:

[English]

If the Crow issue can be resolved, it will be for the good of western Canada.

[Translation]

Here is how the position of the hon. member for Vegreville is described in a Canadian Press article dated February 9, 1982, and I quote:

[English]

The short lived Conservative government, of which he was transport minister, was working on a plan to change the Crow. If his plan was to pay the railways for their grain losses for 1980, that, plus federal purchases of hopper cars and branch

line rehabilitation, would have restored the health of the railway system. In future years there would be negotiation among the railways, farm groups and the government on how the three would share increases in the rates caused by inflation.

[Translation]

That looks very much like what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. I have others like that, I have more. Of course, the position of the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) is clear: as a beef producer he feels he is being penalized by the current situation. That is clear. He said so in the House on July 6, 1981 and again on July 17, 1981, but I will not quote him because my time is running out. The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta) said this in the House about Mr. Clay Gilson, the man who is responsible for getting the groups together, and I quote:

● (1510)

[English]

It is now up to the farm groups to work out the process for changing the Crow with as little political interference as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, here is a statement made in the House by the hon. member for Lisgar on December 11, 1981, and I quote:

[English]

Farm groups in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and virtually all farmers in western Canada are in favour of a change of some sort.

[Translation]

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that on the same day his colleague from Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) said, and I quote:

[English]

The people of Saskatchewan do not want anyone fooling around with the Crow rate.

[Translation]

Yet, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain is singing a different tune. The hon. member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer) will rise later, but we know already from press reports that he is in favour of the changes. So is the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp). As to the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert)—I do not know yet.

What is clear, Mr. Speaker, is that the Conservatives are divided on this issue. Some are in favour of the changes, others are against. As to those members over there, we are not paying too much attention to them, for we already know they are against any changes. But Progressive Conservative members have something to say, and we want to hear them.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!