

Mr. Nystrom: I think the Hon. Member was probably going to say the abolition of rail lines and branch lines. When we have a plan where the railroads are forced to lay off staff, they eventually abandon rural branch lines. I have had three or four cases in my riding where CNR and CPR have tried to abandon branch lines. They do that because they are lines which serve the small communities, villages, and towns, and they do not have the same market size as do bigger communities.

Why should people living in small towns and villages be discriminated against? Why should they be the ones who suffer because the Conservative Government is committed to an ideology which says that it must deregulate, it must privatize, and it must have free trade? It is dedicated to this archaic ideology of the 19th century, this neo-conservatism of Ronald Reagan which affects people in a very negative way in small communities throughout my constituency. People who live in Preeceville, Sturgis, Calder, Rosthern, and all kinds of communities in my riding are concerned about this kind of ideology going wild. They are concerned that their rail lines may be abandoned, that their rail lines may be the next ones to go.

Mr. Thacker: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Because my friend opposite referred to me, I would like to invite him to southern Alberta where the Towns of Whitla, Winnifred, Burdett, Grassy Lake, and Seven Persons, which are on a main CP rail line are declining even with a railway. I do not think it can be simply said that it is solely because of rail line abandonment.

Mr. Benjamin: That is not a point of order.

Ms. Jewett: There are other Tory policies which are pretty bad, too, that have caused that.

Mr. Nystrom: It may not be just the railway. I can tell the House what will happen once the railways leave. Farmers in Willowbrook in my riding, when the line was abandoned, had to start hauling their grain to Theodore, Springside and Yorkton. The whole village started to disappear. It was the same in the Village of Jedburgh. When a farmer hauls his grain to town, he is liable to do some shopping, spend some money in that town at the same time. When the railway disappears, the town starts to disappear even more rapidly.

Mr. Thacker: It happens even when the railway is there.

Mr. Nystrom: The point I want to make is that when we start deregulating, railways start laying off staff and cutting costs. I refer the Hon. Member for Lethbridge—Foothills to Bill C-18. It indicates that one of its main criteria is that competition and market forces are, wherever possible, the prime agents in providing a viable and effective transportation service. If we are looking at competition and market forces, we must realize that they are not going to make much money hauling grain out of Willowbrook, Jedburgh, Rosthern, and Calder.

National Transportation Act, 1986

I suggest that these people deserve a service as much as people in Weyburn, Yorkton, or Swift Current deserve a service.

Mr. Orlikow: Or those in Lethbridge.

Mr. Nystrom: Yes, those in Lethbridge. They happen to live in bigger centres where the rail lines will be maintained. If it is based strictly on profit, the small person or the average person will suffer.

I invite my friend from Lethbridge to go to the City of Melville to make the kind of speech on free enterprise, deregulation, privatization, and free trade which he makes in the House.

Ms. Jewett: Invite the Minister too.

Mr. Nystrom: I invite the Minister as well. After all, the City of Melville has a Conservative MLA. I am sure he would be very happy to see the Minister out there.

Mr. Crosbie: They will have a federal Conservative after the next election.

Mr. Nystrom: If the Minister does not come out there, in the next election the Conservatives will not even finish second in Yorkton—Melville; the Liberals will finish second. I invite the Minister to come to Melville to talk with the local people, with Mayor Don Abel, with the trade union, and with the Chamber of Commerce to save those jobs. I am asking him to be a gentle, benevolent, decent Newfoundlander and to save those jobs in the City of Melville, and we will all be happy.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question is on Motion No. 3 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.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen: