

Transportation

We have heard judges criticize newspapers for passing judgment before a case has been heard. Here is a newspaper which boldly says that these are uneconomic rates. It reminds me of the attitude of the press throughout this debate. We in this House of Commons have been told time and time again by the news media that we should get down to work, that it is a terrible thing the way members project their petty conditions, their petty jealousies, and fight for personal gain. The news media, radio and television are continually telling members to get down to work, to set aside petty things and produce some honest-to-goodness legislation for the good of Canada.

The bill before us was described by the Minister of Transport as the most important piece of legislation that this house will be dealing with this year. We have spent two weeks debating it here and we spent six weeks studying it in the transport committee. We moved seventy amendments in the committee and we have moved something like seven or eight amendments here during the last two weeks. Do you know what I heard on C.T.V. news last Sunday evening? In a report on what was happening in Ottawa it was stated that Ottawa has been rather dull during the last two weeks, that not much has been happening but that the weeks ahead look good because there is a fight developing in the Conservative party over whether there should be an early or late leadership convention. Who is it who projects across the country the image of members not working? It is the vultures who sit up there. They are the ones who project this image across the country. No wonder we have a man coming to Ottawa and attempting to throw a bomb into this chamber.

There was an editorial in the *Star Weekly* some time ago to the effect that members had brought this on themselves because they had driven the man into a state of frustration. He had written letters and the newspaper reached this decision because of the letters he had written. The newspaper said the members of this house drove the man to frustration by continually fighting, displaying petty jealousies and trying to pick a fight over nothing. This is what we are supposed to be doing. We have been working hard for two weeks on this bill and we worked for six weeks in the committee. We have examined a bill which has some 94 clauses and will affect the Canadian economy. The minister described it as the most important piece of legislation the house will deal with this year.

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The vultures sit up there waiting to see whether or not a member is going to be in a dangerous position. Then they flock in and feast upon the bones. If we are all healthy and working there is nothing sensational about which they can write so they circle high and stay away. They know nothing and care nothing about a parliament which is working. They want sensationalism to sell their newspapers and capture the imagination of the television and radio audiences. They have agitated the public and discredited the House of Commons all across Canada. They alone are responsible for the disrespect in which this house is held. It is high time that they educated themselves. When I first came to Ottawa I used to forgive the press.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Pickersgill: I hope the hon. gentleman will not mind too much, but a little while ago he asked what we were doing about speeding up the movement of grain. I should like to speed up movement of this bill a little, if we could leave the vultures aside and get on with the debate.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I am going to deal with another aspect of the press and also with seaway tolls. The minister has thrown me completely off stride but I will come back to it.

When I first came to Ottawa to represent an agricultural area I used to forgive the press because not too many of them were farm boys or knew much about agriculture. Therefore I could not expect them to write intelligently on the subject. I had hoped that after nine years some members of the press gallery above us would become educated and would write intelligently about agriculture, but I found that as soon as they began to write intelligently their editors took them out of the House of Commons.

What the press wants is sensationalism. They do not try to create a good impression of what members of parliament are doing in the House of Commons. We have worked hard over the last two weeks and have brought in some beneficial amendments to this bill. We improved clause 16. We deleted the provision for a review in regard to a major commodity in western Canada. We improved clause 1 and amended a number of clauses in committee of the whole.

I should now like to turn to another subject dealing with transportation, and that is seaway tolls.