

investigation into the Wheat Board. It could well be, Sir, that the terminals are not putting the grain through. We simply cannot make the presumption that once the grain gets to the port terminal, it will automatically be loaded. If that presumption could justifiably be made, then, of course, the grain transportation authority would not need to investigate. But surely we ought not to tread on such dangerous ground as to presume that the port authority would always automatically load grain efficiently, and that same fact holds true of the Canadian Wheat Board in the making of its contracts in the international marketplace. Surely it is *prima facie* evidence that if the Canadian Wheat Board did not act in the international markets to bring onstream viable sales for Canadian grain, no matter how efficient the transportation systems of CN and CP are, if the sales are not there, obviously the grain is not going to be moved. All that becomes a part of the dimension of the question of how we put together a system where the authority has the right to check every part of the system.

• (1530)

I do not know what protection the New Democratic Party is trying to provide to which people, and for what motive it wants to pull out from a whole system of grain transportation one element and say it is only that element for which the authority has the right to investigate on the record of performance. It is nothing other than clear logic to say that if performance is your end result, all of the factors which lead to improved performance ought to be considered. Even the Wheat Board ought to be subject to questions.

I hear some coaching from behind me, from the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) who is trying to protect the Wheat Board from questions. The New Democratic Party would like to make the Canadian Wheat Board a Crown corporation like Petro-Canada, Air Canada and the CBC, and just give it taxpayers dollars and never have it accountable to anyone. The truth of the matter is, Sir, that we need to have a system which is viable and in which every dimension of the system is ready to be checked. Any program which is put forward which says that the fundamental basis of this program is the question of performance, and then only one dimension of performance is focused on, is naive at best, and I will not tell you what it would be at its worst, Sir. I conclude simply by saying that the amendment is naive and falls short of meeting its objectives. The original motion is a better one because in fact we have the capability of carrying out a full investigation of all sections of the system. It is that kind of investigation which is necessary if we are going to have as the ultimate result the high rate of performance which the authority can demand.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to follow the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone), and to listen once again to the oracles from that end of the House continue on in their efforts to attempt to downgrade the Canadian Wheat Board and other agencies. It is rather puzzling to listen to the Conservatives adopt what is

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almost the philosophy of one of the more famous Liberals in this country's history, William Lyon Mackenzie King, a former Prime Minister. To quote from a poem by Frank Scott entitled, "W.L.M.K."

The height of his ambition
Was to pile a Parliamentary Committee on a Royal Commission.

In this case we are not piling a parliamentary committee on a Royal commission, but what the Tories and the Liberals are asking for is an investigator to investigate the investigators to investigate the investigators. Joe McCarthy would have a field day in this place.

It is ridiculous for those who talk about bureaucracies and who attempt to lecture the Canadian public and the Members of the Canadian House of Commons about the evils of bureaucracy, to at the same time, want to pile another bureaucracy upon another bureaucracy, to police self-policing organizations, whether these be labour organizations or the Canadian Wheat Board for example, which already has a series of second looks built into its very structure involving both Ministers of the Crown and the Parliament of Canada. It is ridiculous to pile investigators upon investigators and bureaucracies upon bureaucracies and still claim we care about the public purse and that we care about having Government agencies which people can understand. It is indeed puzzling.

Hon. Members, of which the Hon. Member for Crowfoot was one, wanted to know why the New Democratic Party—to paraphrase his words—wanted to single out the railways. We do not believe that is really what is happening. We believe, as many contributors to this debate have made clear up to this point, that the Canadian Wheat Board and the other agencies which the Tories may or may not want—it is very vague—to come under the purview of the new super czar, already have their own self-policing mechanisms or policing and investigative mechanisms set in place by the Government of Canada or one of its agencies. We do not believe it is necessary to extend overseeing powers further.

Why do we believe that the CPR is not one of those which can be totally counted upon to police itself in terms of the public welfare? We do not believe that the CPR or the other railways, have up to this point been sufficiently supervised, in terms of the public interest, since the initial railway agreements were signed with the Government of Canada shortly after the time of Confederation. One way of looking at Canadian history, Mr. Speaker, is that Canada was created because the CPR needed someone to pay for its railway. It needed taxpayers and it needed a government to pay the cost of building its railway and to ensure that its future position would be secure. Canada was developed because the CPR needed someone to build its railway, and the Hudson Bay Company needed someone to pay for the policing of its territories. And we have behaved that way ever since. All one has to do is to look at how free and easy it has been for that major railway to have its own way with governments, whether they be Liberal or Conservative, since Confederation. One begins to wonder who is policing whom in this country. I feel that we in the New Democratic Party, and that portion of the