

*Summer Recess*

The following paragraph in the Speech from the Throne reads:

Transportation is a vital part of industrial strategy. My Government will ensure that the Canadian transportation system has the capacity to meet the economic challenges of the 1980s. My Government regards the production, transportation, handling, and marketing of Prairie grain as a national priority. Rail facilities will be upgraded, and port facilities improved. You will also be asked to consider, on an urgent basis, legislation concerning the transportation of dangerous goods.

I would like to give the government a bouquet in this instance because we did pass the transportation of dangerous goods bill. We have a very good transport committee and we were very pleased to get that bill passed. It was passed quickly because the Clark government had done a considerable amount of work on the bill, and it was non-partisan.

As far as other things to do with transportation are concerned, nothing has happened. We saw a delay in the construction time-frame for a new grain terminal at the port of Prince Rupert. If we are to meet our export targets for grain, Prince Rupert will have to come on stream. Those facilities have been delayed by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) because he tried to renege on some of the agreements that had been signed by the previous minister of transport. It is now under way but it is probably a year behind what would have been the schedule had the hon. member for Vegreville remained as minister of transport.

The situation with respect to the Crow rate is also in sad shape. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) washed his hands of the issue and said that unless prairie producers could come to some unanimous agreement on the Crow rate, the government would not do anything about it. It is fine for the Prime Minister to be unilateral as far as the Constitution is concerned, which I think we agree is fundamentally more important than the Crow rate, but when it does come to something that is controversial and requires some leadership, the government either does not have a feel for it or does not care, because the government has no members from that part of the country. Yet the Prime Minister expects the producers who are affected by the Crow rate to come to a unanimous decision.

There are many other things that could be talked about, that should be priorities—why Parliament should be sitting and why the government should be looking at some of the positive suggestions which the opposition has put forward. It is a sad day for Parliament that when we are responsible as opposition and put forward sensible suggestions, we have to face closure sending us home on an adjournment motion. As I said, it is a sad day for Parliament, and I hope hon. members opposite know the kind of sad precedent they are setting for this honourable institution.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to follow a federal fellow colleague from Manitoba. I am pleased to provide some response to the comments made by the hon. member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer). I am particularly pleased that he seems to be so enthusiastic about continuing

Parliament. I want to welcome him back to Parliament after his extended and well-versed tour of Germany. I am sorry that others of us were unable to share in that opportunity to gain some respite from our parliamentary duties. I am sure that now he is back with us this gives him some reason for his new found enthusiasm for staying here over the summer.

Several members have referred to the fact that this adjournment debate gives us the time to reflect on past events and accomplishments of this Parliament. That is a very useful exercise. It is not often during the drumbeat of daily discussion that we have a moment to step back and ask ourselves what we have produced in our labours. There have been some suggestions that the report card we present to the public might have a few emissions coming from it, but as the hon. member for Portage-Marquette said, there might even be some errors of omission.

On the other hand, we have to be judged by the standards we set for ourselves and which the people of Canada set for us when they elected this government, at least 15 months ago.

**Mr. Wilson:** It was 16 months ago.

**Mr. Axworthy:** The people of Canada wanted a government that was prepared to tackle the tough issues.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Axworthy:** The people of Canada wanted a government which was not going to change its mind on the road to Jerusalem—

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** You have never even seen Jerusalem.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Here we have the anvil chorus going again with its loud litany of vituperation and paranoia. I am hoping that for a moment they might listen to a song other than the one they sing, because they have been out of tune for the entire parliamentary session. If the prime member of that anvil chorus wants to take a lead role, I am sure he will have an opportunity to do that when I am finished. He can get on his feet and perhaps sing solo for a change, instead of hiding in the back benches.

The people decided in that election that they wanted a government that would make decisions about tough issues. The tough ones are obviously those which create a sense of division and strong emotion. But there must be decisions made, and we have to make tough decisions.

**Mr. Kilgour:** What decisions?

**Mr. Axworthy:** If the hon. member in the anvil chorus wants to give me a chance, I will be glad to supply them. When this government came into power there was one dominant issue facing Canadians, and that was the unity of the country. There was a separatist government in Quebec that was using every single ounce of resource and propaganda to break this country apart. It was through the efforts of this government and the members here that we were able to fight against that act of