

to have the cost of transportation substantially put upon his shoulders. This will make him non-competitive in world trade. The farmer will thereby be the loser. That is the message the Minister is giving to the western grain producer. In Saskatchewan 85 per cent of the producers oppose the Minister's proposal. That is the current statistic. He still is not able to understand what he is doing to the Province of Saskatchewan with this proposal.

To increase freight costs in Canada enormously will make our farmers uncompetitive. I wonder if the Minister has considered the value which grain producers provide to the Canadian economy. He should be more generous to the farmers as far as that consideration is concerned.

The reason why the Minister is receiving such enormous resistance throughout the West is because of the emotional ties the Crow has had to the hearts and minds of western Canadians. As has been pointed out, this is considered to be almost a constitutional right in western Canada. It should not be trifled with by devices of closure, and time allocation that "the motion now be put", limiting the ability of Parliament to deal with the matter.

At the outset of this session, in the Speech from the Throne, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) made a very special point of indicating that on the Government side there was no representation from the three eastern prairie provinces or the North. He pointed out at that time that he wanted there to be full debate on matters related to western Canada. He said that Members of Parliament from western Canada would be given an opportunity to stand and adequately debate issues that had a direct impact on them. The first really serious blow to western Canadian producers in this transportation proposal has been characterized by the record of this Government attempting to limit debate and force through a proposal which the Government knows is totally unacceptable.

I want to warn the Minister that if he persists in this course of action, he will not only affect the economic future but also the social fabric of western Canada, including the Province I represent, Saskatchewan. The fabric of rural Saskatchewan will be negatively and adversely affected. This proposal will mean that farms will become larger and larger. The small family farm will be a thing of the past. In Saskatchewan there will be a drying up of the rural population, a change in the social fabric, and the Minister knows it. In his heart of hearts he knows that that will be the consequence and the effect of this legislation in its present form.

The Minister can make his own speech in his own time. Every time I get up to speak he shouts across the aisle. I know he is sensitive. He has every right to be sensitive about this issue, because he is on the wrong side.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have an opportunity to bring some honesty back into the debate. I want to remind a few of the Tories that they may be able to send some of their speeches to their constituents, but the facts are quite clear to show where the Tory Party really stands on this whole freedom of choice scam it is trying to sell in western Canada. It is certainly not selling to farmers. The farmers know that the freedom of choice they are talking about is

freedom of choice as to whether the cheque goes directly to CN or CP, or comes to them temporarily and then goes on to the railways. Now that we have seen what the Tory collapse is all about—only 30 per cent have been involved in this debate—we need to remind farmers and Canadians of how this legislation was introduced in the House.

There were 37 Tories absent, and the Government only won by 24 votes. If the Tories had turned up even a fraction of their Members, and this may be interesting to the Member from Saskatchewan who just spoke because over half the Tory Members from Saskatchewan did not turn up when the legislation was introduced, the result would have been different.

We know where the Tories are coming from. For every speaker we put up, sometimes they put up one, sometimes they do not put up any. Some of the Members they put up from the West, such as the Hon. Member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen) who spoke last night, do not know anything about the legislation. He is a typical Tory. He talked about \$800 million going to the railroad. He has never read the Bill. The \$800 million is not mentioned anywhere in the Bill. It is \$651 million. The Hon. Member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta demonstrated once again that he is good at getting up and dithering, but he does not know much about many Bills that come before the House. He certainly does not do his homework.

I would like to talk about why the Tories have taken the position that they have. A few quick quotes will tell all Canadians why the Tories are collapsing as they are. During the Tory leadership campaign, here is what John Crosbie had to say. He said that the farmers' share of the cost has to increase. Initiatives had to be taken to improve freight transportation in the West, keeping in mind that the price per ton will double in the next two years and will go up at least five times by 1991. Michael Wilson said that it was a move in the right direction.

• (1140)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The Hon. Member should refer to Members of the House by their constituency names.

Mr. Fulton: I certainly recognize that, Mr. Speaker. I am quoting from a press—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Hon. Member is not allowed to do indirectly what he is not allowed to do directly. He is referring to Members of the House. He must use their constituency names.

Mr. Fulton: Well, Mr. Speaker, Montreal businessman, Brian Mulroney, who is not a Member of the House, and may never be, said that he agrees that the Government is going in the right direction.

Members of the Tory Party cannot stand up in the House and say, "Well, we are opposed to this, we want freedom of choice". Mr. Speaker, a certain degree of honesty is required.