

Western Grain Transportation Act

enormous investment in British Columbia, for example, but little or no investment in Manitoba—indeed, no investment in Manitoba. We could use the Government directing the railway—

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the Hon. Member was doing well and was ready to sit down until the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) whispered in his ear "Go on, go on". Clearly we see filibustering here, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. I thank the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for raising the point of order but I do not think he should question the right of the Hon. Member to continue his remarks within his allotted time. Let us be clear about that.

● (1130)

However, the Parliamentary Secretary did raise the matter of relevancy and, as the Chair has pointed out, it is not an easy rule to apply. In cases of doubt, the Chair would prefer to give the Hon. Member who has the floor the benefit of the doubt. I must repeat again, however, that under our standard practices, at report stage in the House of Commons remarks must relate directly to the amendment before the House. Hon. Members should not stray far and wide and discuss the general content of the Bill but should as much as possible confine their remarks to the specific amendment.

I do not feel I can be any clearer. I appreciate it is not an easy rule for the Chair to apply. I appreciate also that Hon. Members may accidentally stray from the motion before the House. I do suggest however, that we are all keepers of the rules and practices of the House of Commons. I appeal to Hon. Members to respect those rules.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper) will be given an additional minute.

Mr. Keeper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the invitation to be a keeper of the rules. I will attempt, Mr. Speaker, to demonstrate to my hon. colleagues the direct relevance of my comments with regard to this amendment.

This is an amendment which was introduced by the Conservative Party and which is supported by our Party. We are calling upon the Liberal Government to adopt this very positive amendment. We want the Government to see that this amendment can also be the Liberal way of approaching railways. I mention that because my earlier comments were moving toward the whole matter of investment in railway location in Winnipeg. That connects with this amendment because of the fact that a couple of federal elections ago the matter of railway location and investment in railways in Winnipeg was a central matter debated in Winnipeg.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of rising until the Parliamentary Secretary rose. I

do believe he needs more information. I wanted to rise primarily to commend the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) of the Conservative Party. It is not very often I feel I can rise in the House and commend a Conservative for being so progressive. The Hon. Member for Vegreville is following in the good red Tory footsteps of "Red Ray", the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn), and I am very pleased—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You are going to ruin my reputation!

Mr. Nystrom: —because "Red Ray" is one of the more progressive Members of that Party. He would support this amendment, which is a democratic socialist type of amendment, which gives the public, through the Administrator, the ultimate say in controlling the two railways, making sure that the priority is the public good, not the private good of the CPR. I believe that to be very important because the railways are there to provide a service. They are there to represent the people of this country. They are not there primarily for the shareholders of the CPR. I feel that is very important.

What this amendment does is that it gives the power to the Administrator of the Grain Transportation Agency the right to require different reciprocal and other arrangements between the two railways in the movement of grain. That is very important because the record of the CPR in western Canada, when it comes to service, is not a very proud record indeed, Mr. Speaker. Having grown up on a farm in Saskatchewan, with my whole family being involved in farming in one way or another for many years, I grew up, I suppose, with a natural instinct to be suspicious of the CPR because the CPR is usually shafting the farmers.

I remember a story about the CPR which the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) told me a long time ago. It is a story I also heard as a kid back on the farm. I think it really summarizes this amendment. It is the story of an old farmer who came home one day, Mr. Speaker, and found that a hailstorm had wiped out his wheat. He went into the house and found that lightning had struck his home, his wife had run off with the hired hand and the Income Tax Department was after him. The farmer went outside and looked up to the heavens. He shook his fist and he shouted, "The goddam CPR!"

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. I would advise the Hon. Member to be careful with his choice of words, even in his stories. I also do not see what that story has to do with the amendment before the House.

An Hon. Member: He thought you wanted to hear it.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, maybe I should cease and desist from quoting the Hon. Member for Regina West. It just gets me into trouble. However, Mr. Speaker, I feel that little story summarizes the very good reason why the Hon. Member for Vegreville has put Motion No. 33 on the Order Paper today. It is because the CPR has not dealt very fairly with the interests of the farmers in western Canada historically. I am sure the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) would say the same