

Western Grain Transportation Act

As we on the Standing Committee on Transport travelled across Canada, we found there were many railways, such as the railway to Churchill, which can handle only certain types of cars. Again, it is imperative that the correct equipment is made available for areas such as this so grain can be moved when it should be. That must be done. It is imperative that the Administrator have a voice in how it is being done. It is a travesty to western grain producers that the Liberals and Conservatives sit in the House, remain quiet about this issue and do not participate by giving assurance that this kind of protection is there. We hear that they support the Wheat Board but they sit silent in the House.

● (1150)

During my travels with the Transport Committee the Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) attended meetings where he bragged to the prairie farmers about how much he had done and how many cars he had supplied during his term in office. I want to tell the House that I worked in the mechanical department of the railway company for many years and a boxcar cannot be built—

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder what days the Hon. Member is referring to when speaking about his travels with the Transport Committee. I travelled on many days—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order. The Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke has the floor.

Mr. Parker: Mr. Speaker, to begin with, that was not a legitimate point of order. If you look at the record, I said that I travelled across this country with the Transport Committee and the Member for Vegreville was there. If you check the record you will find that I was on that committee.

Mr. McKnight: On what dates?

Mr. Parker: I have no obligation to the Member to tell him what dates I was on that Committee. It appears that some Conservative Members—

Mr. Malone: The Member for Crowfoot.

Mr. Parker: If the Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) wants to check the records he will find that I travelled on the Transport Committee and met with grain growers in Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton. We also visited Prince Rupert.

Mr. Taylor: You must have been under the table in Edmonton because I did not see you there.

Mr. Parker: These Conservative Members seem to be so uptight about it, but there was more than one Transport Committee. There was one working with regard to the Crow Bill and there also was a Transport Committee that travelled throughout this country about two years ago. If they cannot remember that, they were not very interested in what was taking place in transportation in Canada.

Mr. Taylor: There was one in 1917 as well. Were you on that one?

Mr. Parker: We hear rumblings from the Conservatives and the Liberals but let us hear some constructive advice on how we should deal with this very important problem.

The only efficient way that we can handle our grain is to give the Canadian Wheat Board, which represents the farmers, manages the grain economy and how our grain is sold to other countries, the authority and opportunity to demand that the companies operate efficiently and that the shipping of grain is achieved quickly. We should not continue a system in which the railway companies have told the prairie farmers that the railway workers are causing all the problems, when it is the railway companies that have put the cars on sidings and delayed the transportation of grain as a result of their poor management. If there was an administrator dealing with these problems, the farmers would know first hand who to blame and would ensure that it would not happen.

The Conservative Party is hoping and praying that Continental or Cargill can get involved and destroy one of the best marketing systems that Canada ever had. If these changes are going to be made we cannot allow Bill C-155 to pass without some protection of orderly marketing in Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The question is on Motion No. 39 and on Motion No. 40.

All those in favour, please say yea?

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Pursuant to Standing Order 79(11), a recorded division on the proposed motions stands deferred.

Motions Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 have been grouped for debate and are to be voted on separately.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West) moved:

Motion No. 41

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 21 by striking out lines 12 and 13 at page 11 and substituting the following therefor:

“during the period by railway companies; and”.

Motion No. 42

That Bill C-155 be amended in Clause 21 by striking out lines 14 to 24 at page 11 and substituting the following therefor: