

Western Grain Transportation Act

positions. In the committee and in this House we have had a litany of Tory attacks on orderly marketing through the Canadian Wheat Board. We witnessed that until they got into trouble. As soon as they started getting static from the folks back home, they flopped. They made an attack on the co-operative movement. They are the birds who moved amendments, supported by Liberals. To do what? To reduce the representation of the Wheat Pools.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I call the attention of the Hon. Member to the fact that debate at report stage should be strictly relevant to the debate before us.

Mr. Benjamin: I mentioned earlier how they flopped. Now with Motion No. 39 they have flipped. They flopped in the previous motions so that the Canadian Wheat Board could be sanctioned and have producers' money used up by some other agency of the Crown. Now they have flipped with one for the Canadian Wheat Board. They flipped and flopped in committee and earlier in this House on the Canadian Wheat Board and the co-operative movement.

Much has been said about accountability and authority. My motion asks that nothing interfere with the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board under Section 21(k) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act or any orders of the Governor in Council to make available the quantity and types of grain needed to achieve sales commitments. The words "and in the interests of producers" at the tail end of the motion of the Hon. Member for Assiniboia is fine because that is already the mandate of the Wheat Board under the Canadian Wheat Board Act. The Board operates only in the interests of the grain producers and no one else. If the Member wants to add those words, I am agreeable.

Today I received some words of support for what we are trying to do. They came from the President of the Canadian Labour Congress. He supports the position we have taken. He supports the retention of the statutory grain rate for grain producers, the rebuilding of railways lines and the taking of equity ownership for any capital investment into railways upgrading. That person speaks on behalf of two million workers in this country. He is enunciating a policy resolution of the Canadian Labour Congress and the 100-odd unions which belong to it.

I have been particularly saddened listening to the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). I have always thought highly of him. I still do, but it bothers me and, I am sure, many other of his good friends to listen to him and his colleagues continually crying and whining about 1979. They are the guys who manufactured their own defeat. They are the dummies who, with a minority Government, said they were going to govern as if they had a majority. That has to be the dumbest thing that anybody in politics has said since Charles II lost his head. Now they are whining and crying. They have no class. They do not know how to win well, they do not know how to lose well—no class.

The Hon. Member for Assiniboia talked about their keen awareness. Their awareness was not so keen in committee

when they voted to weaken the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board, when they supported the Liberals. They brought in amendments to weaken the powers of the Wheat Board. Now they are keenly aware. They have Motion No. 39 of the Hon. Member for Assiniboia. The Progressive Conservative Party, like the Liberal Party, is in favour of killing the statutory Crowsnest Pass freight rate. They still support that.

The Hon. Member for Vegreville is trying to cover their political backsides by saying "Let us not do it for three years because we may have an election out of the way by then". They have yet to come out opposed to the destruction of the statutory grain rates for our grain producers. They support that destruction. The architect of the legislation is a guy that the Hon. Member for Vegreville hired when he was Minister of Transport. He is the architect of the legislation. The Tories support the killing of the statutory grain rate.

We will vote for the Conservative Motion No. 39, but my Motion No. 40 does better. It contains the wording asked for by the Canadian Wheat Board when its officials appeared before the Committee on Transport. Mr. Esmond Jarvis, the Chief Commissioner, appeared before the committee and cited what should be in the Bill by way of an amendment. That is my motion, not this namby-pamby motherhood notion of the Hon. Member for Assiniboia, who is trying to cover his tracks in a riding where 90 per cent of the people support the orderly marketing principle of the Canadian Wheat Board. He is in favour of an Administrator being able to sanction the Wheat Board and being able to fine the Wheat Board, such fine to be paid with grain producers' money.

On one page of these motions the Tories want to undermine and weaken the Canadian Wheat Board; on the next page of these motions, they are keenly aware. Isn't that interesting. When it comes to contortions, they make the people of Asia look like amateurs. The most expert people in the world on stage and on screen when it comes to physical contortions are those from East Asia. However, when it comes to political contortion, this Tory outfit puts everybody else to shame. This outfit is all over the lot. I wish they would quit crying and moaning about things of their own doing. They should quit trying to blame everybody else for their own errors of commission and omission. They should give up on this blatant, crass political opportunism in trying to save their neck in the Prairies. They are doing this because they attacked and continue to support the weakening of the Canadian Wheat Board. They attack, then frantically try to cover their tracks. They are busier than a cat on a tin roof. When they realize what kind of trouble they are in, they want to put the representation back on for the wheat pools. They have flopped and flipped and flipped and flopped repeatedly since this legislation was introduced in May. We will vote for Motion No. 39, but No. 40 is better. Motion No. 40 complies with what is needed by the Canadian Wheat Board in the best interests of grain producers. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that when we get to Motion No. 40 on a deferred vote, I will see the Conservative Members voting for a motion that is better located, better worded and will perhaps help them improve upon their flip-flopping. I