

Mr. Paproski: Why are you laughing, Benjamin? What do you think is so funny?

Mr. Brisco: Remember what happened in British Columbia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Who has the floor?

Mr. Goodale: Who is in charge over there?

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I know I touch a tender nerve when I show there is little difference between Grits and Tories. In Saskatchewan the other day a Grit switched over and joined the Tories without any difficulty, ethical, moral or conscience. He said on television that it was an opportunity. The interviewer did not have to mention the word "opportunism." The whole operation was designed to protect his own backside, and to hell with his party. Of course, that's the kind of thing that happens among the Grits and Tories. They have little difficulty making such switches back and forth. If they are proud of that, fine; that is their problem.

Mr. Brisco: Tell us what Barrett did to Strachan in British Columbia.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, not only are we prepared not to support this legislation; we are prepared to hold it up as long as we possibly can, or at least until clause 15 of the bill is deleted. We want a commitment from the minister or the parliamentary secretary that the government will not do away with the "at and east" rates. If the government is not prepared to do that, I am afraid it will be some time before the bill passes, if it ever passes. This is not restraint, Mr. Speaker; this is shifting costs far greater than the amount of the subsidy. It is shifting costs on to the shoulders of the milling association and the grain producers, on to the shoulders of workers and operators in the ports of the Great Lakes, the lower St. Lawrence and the Atlantic and that is all.

Actually, the government's proposal will result in costs greater than the amount of the subsidy being so shifted. I know the hon. member opposite is thinking about the \$9 million in the first year which the government proposes to give the milling industry and the phasing out of help over five years. Mr. Speaker, you do not consider the milling of flour and the export of wheat from Atlantic ports merely within a five-year time-frame. You think about such matters in terms of 50 or 100 years.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Hear, hear!

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, this is some big deal! The government is merely helping the milling industry to take that much longer to go broke and lose its export market. It is like chopping a dog's tail off an inch at a time instead of doing it in one clean motion. This is nothing less but an attempt to buy off the milling industry and the people working in it, and it is a damned cheapskate attempt to buy them off. You cannot soften the blow with that kind of nonsense.

Wharves

Mr. Speaker, the \$11 million-odd which the government provides is not really a subsidy. It represents a sharing of costs by the nation as a whole. By providing the money, the government is playing its proper role in transportation. It is making sure that growers and processors in western Canada and handlers in the Atlantic ports can compete with overseas millers and have equal access to our own markets in central Canada. If the Minister of Transport, with the support of the hon. member for Assiniboia, gets his way I suppose we can look for flour mills in downtown Toronto and Montreal because no doubt you can make money there.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at two o'clock.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

WHARVES

POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION TO QUEBEC—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion dealing with an important question of pressing necessity.

Considering that urgent repairs are needed to the St. Lawrence wharves used as means of communication and that the lack of maintenance is due to the lengthy negotiations between Ottawa and Quebec over the transfer of those wharves to Quebec, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House urge the government to intensify its negotiations with the new Quebec government to settle the matter without delay and that the Minister of Transport be asked to report to the House as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.