

*Western Grain Transportation Act*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I will do my best to sense the mood of the House. I personally do not regard that as a satisfactory withdrawal. On the other hand, I recognize that Hon. Members have sometimes been called upon to withdraw a word and have used phrases something like that. I think it is a marginal situation. My hope is that the Hon. Member will give second thought to using such an expression.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the rules of the House, of course I withdraw the word.

**Mr. Shields:** Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising that the Hon. Member—

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I want to suggest to the Hon. Member that, in making his speech to the House, reference to any vote having been taken with regard to the method of payment is quite untrue inasmuch as there has been no such vote taken. For him to rise and to say such a thing is an attempt to mislead the public.

**Mr. Epp:** Order.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Now you are getting back into trouble; you were doing so well.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. For very understandable reasons, the debate is emphatic, but it seems that the best way for Hon. Members to proceed is not to have the debate on points of order. Where there is a disagreement, there is nothing prohibiting Hon. Members on various sides of the House from standing up and entering the debate. If Hon. Members persist in doing it on points of order, which are not points of order, then I will have to become somewhat more difficult in applying the rules of relevancy.

**Mr. Shields:** Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising that the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) reacted in the way he did. Obviously he does not know that the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), as a representative on the committee at its 66 meetings—and I doubt if the Hon. Member for Hamilton-Mountain attended one of them—voted on behalf of his Party against—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Not one meeting, and that is the truth.

**Mr. Deans:** A point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Would it not be possible for Hon. Members to underline their differences in debate rather than in points of order?

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is wrong again. I wish, if he is to make allegations, he would be accurate in what he says.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I indicated to the Hon. Member and to all Hon. Members that I will have to be more strict in terms of what constitutes a point of order.

**Mr. Shields:** I suggest the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain talk to his colleague, the Hon. Member for Regina West, and find out how his colleague voted on behalf of the New Democratic Party during the hearings when the question was put and the amendment was put concerning the freedom of choice option. He will find that the record is clear. If the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain looks at the record, he will find that the Hon. Member for Regina West voted against the freedom of choice option which would allow the farmer a little control over his own destiny.

**Mr. Deans:** Now you weasel out.

**Mr. Shields:** It was not the Big Brother approach of the New Democratic Party, which is consistent with its philosophy. The little guy, the individual on the street, according to the NDP, does not have the knowledge or the brains to handle his own business; they as Big Brothers have to do it. Now I would like to turn to Motion No. 50.

**Mr. Epp:** Chase them out of the House, Jack.

**Mr. Shields:** Yes, they have to get their marching orders from the union bosses. There is no doubt about that, as Hon. Members have indicated. Motion No. 50 seeks to amend Clause 29 by adding:

“(3) A railway company shall, in a subsequent calendar year, invest in railway equipment and plant for the movement of grain an amount not less than the after tax cost of capital, after tax depreciation, and after tax constant cost portion of payments it received under section 55 for the preceding crop year.”  
and by renumbering the subsequent subclauses accordingly.

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That creates a whole new department within the Department of Transport, a Department of about 100 people, including accountants, lawyers and good socialist hacks who will come in, sit down, go through the books and spend hours and hours on reams of paperwork. That is the Big Brother approach.

We put through an amendment in the committee hearings that was accepted by the NDP, accepted by the Government and, of course, accepted by our Party. The position was very straightforward, one that was accepted by the NDP. It is exactly what the NDP wants in their Motion No. 50. However, the NDP is using politics. It is making some noise, saying to the farmers that it will look after them, that they cannot look after themselves. I read basically the amendment as was put forward in committee:

The railways are at liberty to make the necessary investment for grain movement.

We put an amendment during the committee hearings, a successful amendment to Clause 29(2), which strengthens the Canadian Transport Commission position to monitor and verify its investments by, first, annually verifying and reporting to the Minister on investments made in the prior crop year, and second, analysing the investment plans of the present and subsequent crop year and within 90 days submitting a report to the Minister on the appropriateness of those plans to ensure an adequate, reliable and effective railway service. The rail-