

Members can make their own judgment about what happened in that particular case.

Mr. Malone: Come on!

Mr. Blaikie: Now the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone) is foaming at the mouth.

Mr. Malone: You are right, I am. Every time you speak you do nothing but perpetuate falsehoods.

Mr. Blaikie: We seem to have struck a nerve, Mr. Speaker. We seem to have—

Mr. Taylor: It is lies. Tell the truth and shame the devil.

● (1150)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) was given the floor to make a speech.

Mr. Malone: What a speech! Terrible, despicable.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to cause too much excitement over here.

Mr. Malone: Well then, tell the truth. You stand there and fabricate and call it a speech.

Mr. Blaikie: The truth seems to excite the Hon. Member.

Mr. Malone: You could not spell "truth".

Mr. Blaikie: It is refreshing to see Progressive Conservatives excited by the truth.

Mr. Taylor: It is the lies that bother us.

Mr. Blaikie: Generally speaking, they are excited by their own falsehoods. Mr. Speaker, I see you are rising to your feet. Is this to call for order once again or am I nearing my time?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair would ask Hon. Members to co-operate. Under our rules, practices and Standing Orders the Hon. Member who is given the floor to make a speech on the motion before the House should not be unduly interrupted. I suppose there is no harm in occasional verbal sniping, but it should not carry on beyond decency.

Mr. Nystrom: Show respect for this institution.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, one of the other things I wanted to say, having to do with the Crow rate had to do with—

Mr. Malone: That would be interesting.

Mr. Fisher: It would be a first.

Mr. Blaikie: —the remarks made earlier by the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) about how we need to understand the history of any particular thing in order to really appreciate what is really going on, is this. Let us just recall for a minute that not too long ago in the House we

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unanimously passed a resolution concerning French language rights in Manitoba. One of the things we were saying when we did that was that we respected the history of Manitoba and certain rights granted certain Canadians at a certain time. We wanted those rights to be respected even though the situation had changed and Francophones in Manitoba are not in the majority any more as they were when Manitoba came into Confederation. We said that a right is a right, and that is what we are talking about when we talk about the Crow rate. If we want to respect history and the rights established in the history of this country, then the Crow rate is one of those kinds of rights. It cannot simply be abrogated because **somebody**, in this case the CPR, decides that they no longer think it is as relevant or as practical as it was when it was initially granted.

When you start to talk about rights, Mr. Speaker, practicality and logistics do not enter into it in the same way they would if you were talking about something else. I ask this House, when it is thinking about the Crow rate, to try and do it with the same respect for history as it did concerning the question of French language rights in Manitoba.

Mr. Breau: You are stretching it too far.

Mr. Blaikie: The Hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) says I am stretching the point. I am not stretching the point at all.

Mr. Breau: Is the Crow rate in the Constitution?

Mr. Blaikie: The Crow rate is part of the understanding of this country, particularly in western Canada. That has to be remembered by Hon. Members when they are considering this matter.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of corporate morality. If the CPR and others want to change the Crow rate, then we say now, as we have said from the very beginning, put the whole deal back on the table. Put everything back on the table, not just change whatever side of a historic agreement one side happens not to like any more.

Mr. Pepin: That is procrastination.

Mr. Blaikie: That is the kind of sell-out bargaining that both the Liberals and Conservatives have fallen victim to in this debate.

Mr. Pepin: No change.

Mr. Blaikie: They are willing to put only that one side of the deal back on the table and let the CPR have its way with the country. It goes on forever and ever like that, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to take part in the debate on Motions Nos. 39 and 40, but I was so moved by the oratory of my distinguished colleague, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), that I felt—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!