

Western Grain Transportation Act

desire and the wish he enunciated in an earlier amendment. It is only to ensure that the amendment is incorporated that it was brought forth in this fashion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I can see the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) rising again, I presume on the same point of order, but if he will permit me, I think it is the Chair's turn. I might clear this up by pointing out to the Hon. Member for Regina West, who is a very experienced and learned Member of this House, that in this case the Minister of Transport is not bringing in the amendment on the original Royal recommendation but on a separate Royal recommendation which I have in hand now. It says:

Her Excellency the Governor General recommends to the House of Commons that Bill C-44, An Act to amend the Western Grain Transportation Act, be amended in subclause 1(1)

(a) by striking out line 7 at page 1 and substituting the following:

"(d) nine members who shall be"

(b) by striking out line 16 at page 1 and substituting the following:

"Manitoba four representing the pro-"

It is the same in the French language version. I hope that clears up the matter as far as the Royal recommendation is concerned.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, may I make it perfectly clear right away to the Minister and yourself that it is not a matter so much of who is moving the amendment. I would like to point out to the Chair that once the Royal recommendation has been amended it makes no difference who moves the amendment. However, I am prepared to give way. The amendment can be in the Minister's name, and God bless him. But I think the Chair errs. Once the Royal recommendation is changed, then any Member can move an amendment on that matter. I am not going to argue about it; I just wanted to leave that with the Chair. If you want to accept the amendment from the Minister, so be it; I will support him on it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is there unanimous consent to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is that agreed?

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I want other Hon. Members besides the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), myself and the rest of us in the NDP to understand what is happening here. Originally I proposed an amendment to make this read "10 members" and the Minister and I agreed that we would go along with nine. The reason for the amendment is that the Province of Saskatchewan has as many grain producers as the other two provinces and the Peace River district of B.C. put together. In addition, the Province of Saskatchewan grows and ships as much grain as the other two provinces and the Peace River district of British Columbia put together. So all we are trying to do is equalize the membership on this committee, having regard to the number of producers and the volume they produce and ship. If you were really going to equalize it, Mr. Speaker, and I am doing this for the record, we would have the

number "10" in there instead of the number "9". There would be five members from Saskatchewan. That would equalize it. But the Minister and I have agreed that we will make it four instead of three and I have given way, he has given way, and I want to give him credit for recognizing this.

I would remind the Chair to look again at the advice he has received about once a Royal recommendation is changed and who can or cannot move amendments. To be accommodating, I am glad the Minister moved the amendment in order that we can have this change made.

● (2120)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mazankowski moved that the Bill, as amended, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There is another motion at report stage moved by the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. Angus) on Clause 5 of this Bill, which motion was filed several hours ago. We had two amendments which were properly filed with the table. There is one more amendment to be dealt with.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is there unanimous consent to revert to report stage of Bill C-44?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The House reverted to the consideration of Bill C-44, an Act to amend the Western Grain Transportation Act, as reported with amendments from the Standing Committee on Transport.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan) moved:

That Bill C-44, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 38 at page 2 and substituting the following therefore:

"repealed, and the following paragraphs are added:

(B) a person who in his opinion represents the Port cities of the Eastern Division; and

(C) a person who in his opinion represents the Port cities of the Western Division."

He said: Mr. Speaker, I will not take much time. I know that all Members of the House would like to finish our business and get on to enjoying the summer. I moved this amendment to this very important Bill in an effort to ensure representation from the many communities in the east and the west which owe much of their economy to the movement of grain through their ports. I feel very strongly that ports, whether the port of Vancouver or the port of Prince Rupert on the west coast, or the port of Churchill or Thunder Bay on what we refer to as the east coast of grain shipment, have a right to representation, at least with observer status, in order to keep track of the decisions being made and to have some input.