

Western Grain Transportation Act

Bill is more than just a Bill to change the Crownsnest Pass rates. There are many other things in the Bill. It deals with the obligations that will be put upon the railways to provide a better transportation system. It deals with penalties to be imposed upon them if they do not. It deals, in several clauses, with limits which the farmers, the producers, will have to pay. There is no doubt it is increasing the cost of transportation to the producer, but it does limit the rate at which that cost can increase. It seems to me it was the clear intention to put a cap—if the cap is there in the Bill—on the cost to the farmers.

I would argue that Motions Nos. 14, 74 and 57 are within the scope of the Bill, provided they are covered by the Royal Recommendation, which Nos. 14 and 57 are. Motion No. 74 does not require an amendment to the Royal Recommendation because it simply incorporates a safety net into the calculation of the Government's contribution. Motion No. 157 would require an amendment to the Royal Recommendation, and that is provided with the amendment. I leave those three, Madam Speaker.

I would like to speak on the various groupings now, if you want me to do so, or, if you prefer, I will wait until later and now make some comments about some of the others. But I can speak on those three motions now if that is what you prefer.

Madam Speaker: I am just wondering at this point if the Hon. Member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) has a main presentation to make. I had given the floor to the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) and he deferred to the Hon. Member for Yukon, saying that the Hon. Member for Yukon would introduce this debate as far as the Opposition arguments are concerned. Here I am waiting for that magnificent presentation. Does the Hon. Member for the Yukon want to make it now?

Mr. Nielsen: Yes, I will, Madam Speaker. Because it is relevant to the points raised thus far, the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight) has a very brief intervention to make. Then I will unburden myself on the Chair knowing full well the Chair will give the arguments which I will be presenting to it the entire weight they deserve.

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I rise regarding Motion No. 10 that stands in my name. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) had mentioned there would be agreement. I have consulted with my colleague, the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), with the Minister of Transport and with other Members of the House and I will be withdrawing Motion No. 10 by leave. I will be asking leave to reintroduce a motion that I have reason to believe will be accepted unanimously by this House.

I ask whether you would like me to read it now. If I could notify the House of my intent by reading it, then at the appropriate time I could move the motion. The old motion would be withdrawn by leave. The new Motion No. 10 would read:

That Motion No. 10 be amended by substituting the following therefor: "export" in respect of grain means shipment by vessel within the meaning of the Canada Shipping Act to any destination outside Canada and shipment by any

other mode of transport to the United States for use of the grain in that country and not for shipment out of that country.

I would like your guidance, Madam Speaker, as to when the appropriate time would be to ask leave to introduce the motion.

Madam Speaker: I would like the Hon. Member not to move that now because I would like to look at the new amendment. As soon as I am able to rule on it as to its acceptability, perhaps we can see what mode of procedure can be used to do that.

Mr. Mazankowski: Madam Speaker, may I rise on a brief point of order and perhaps the Table officers can take note of this. Motion No. 130, which is in my name, and Motion No. 131 are duplicates. I think that was a typographical error.

Mr. Nielsen: By Journals.

Mr. Mazankowski: Yes. In Motion No. 130, I am proposing to delete lines 11 to 17 on page 30 which would delete the Section "Government share of the rate of cost change."

● (1710)

My second motion was to delete the section dealing with interim adjustment, lines 18 to 31. My motion, as proposed, was based upon the original Bill, the one before the reprinted version, so the lines do not correspond. I wonder if I might prevail upon the Chair and the Table officers to correct that because it would be rather useless to debate Motions Nos. 130 and 131, which are identical, when it was the intention to debate, in one case, the deletion of the Government's share of the rate cost change and, in the other, the interim adjustment. I would ask that that be considered.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, my submission will be in three parts. The first part will be the briefest and falls within the suggestion by the Chair that I deal with motions according to group. The first group is Motion No. 1. I have read the concerns of the Chair with respect to Motion No. 1 which can be found on page III of the Order Paper for Monday, October 3, 1983. It is the intention that the amendment of the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) be inserted immediately before the short title of the Bill as reprinted. It would appear that the precedents would support the Chair. Citation 779 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition reads:

(2) Substantive amendments to the preamble are inadmissible unless the modification is proposed for purposes of clarification or uniformity. *Journals*, January 19, 1970, p. 323.

(3) Where the bill, as introduced, does not contain a preamble, it is not competent for the committee to introduce one.

Of course this Bill does not contain a preamble. Citation 792 of Beauchesne's is to the same effect.

I find myself in agreement with the Chair's concern with respect to Motion No. 1. I would suggest to the Minister, who is at the moment unavoidably absent, that he might consider the desirability—and I would make the same suggestion to the NDP—of accepting Motion No. 1 as a preamble, and we could go about achieving that objective by consent.