

Government Orders

We will talk about the railroad and how you and the Liberals have taken their responsibilities for what they signed over 100 years ago and you have subsidized them too.

You have caved in on every single responsibility from the private sector and now you are going to use public money for this boondoggle.

I find it absolutely amazing the tortuous route both the Liberals and the Conservatives find to waste taxpayers money on stupid things like this. If you think you are right come out to B.C., stand up in British Columbia and tell all British Columbians why we should pay a share of this dumb idea when we do not get a single penny for our transportation costs from the mainland of Vancouver to Vancouver Island. You come out and tell us that. You come out and tell us why you should double the amount.

Mrs. Dobbie: Are those real tears?

Mr. Barrett: I do not mind the heckling. I enjoy it but there does reach a point where stupidity is so transparent it even exposes the Liberals and the Conservatives.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I was driven to my feet by the logic of my hon. friend.

For years the province of British Columbia has argued that the Government of Canada should run a railroad train up and down Vancouver Island on the basis that it was in the original agreement whereby B.C. came into Confederation.

My hon. friend should obviously know that in the original agreement whereby P.E.I. came into Confederation it was guaranteed access to the mainland. What we are trying to do is give them better access, access that does not break down.

My hon. friend is not from the province of Ontario where we have tourists going to P.E.I. all the time. The biggest problem is the wait for the ferry. My hon. friend does not know anything about that. In your party you maybe do not have to wait for ferries but in our party you do.

An hon. member: You can wait for hours in B.C.

Mr. Lewis: I think my hon. friend has to get it right. If he wants to apply the principle when it comes to B.C. he has got to apply the principle when it comes to P.E.I.

Mr. Barrett: Do you think that the Tories recognized the principle of the E & N railroad when CPR closed it down?

An hon. member: No.

Mr. Barrett: No. We had to go to court. We did not get any help from the federal government. You are the ones that allowed the railroads to be disbanded. The passenger service that was promised when the CPR came in, it was the Liberals and the Tories that took the CPR off the hook, and never took back one single Crown grant. They gave them forest rights, they gave them mineral rights in this country, they gave them land 10 miles on both sides of the railroads and as soon as the railroad said "Oh, we are going broke" the government said "We cannot stand this. You poor railroads. We will take it over and pay for it out of taxpayers money".

Do not give me that humbug that this government or the Liberals ever stood up for the Canadian people on the original deal on the railroads. We had to go to the Supreme Court of British Columbia to get our rights to get the railroad back.

The record of both the Liberals and the Conservatives is one of consistent sell out, not only of the west but every single taxpayer in this country. To suggest that there is any difference between this government and the Liberals is absolutely a fabrication. The people of this country are getting hosed again by stupid deals that do not even have a reasonable payout to ordinary people in this country.

I cannot make it plainer than that. I challenge my good friends to stand up on any public platform in any city of this country and argue this stupidity. I will argue against it and we will see what the audience thinks.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, I am really very surprised at the vehemence the hon. member is showing today with respect to this question of a land transportation link to Prince Edward Island.

It is certainly not induced by political gratitude on the part of the government since the government did not receive any support by way of seats in Prince Edward Island in the last election and it may or may not receive seats in Prince Edward Island in the next election. This project is being put forward and supported by us because