

*The Late Tom Cossitt***RAILWAYS****SUGGESTED RETENTION OF CROWSNEST PASS RATE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Len Gustafson (Assiniboia): Madam Speaker, I wish to raise an urgent and pressing matter relating to western Canadian grain farmers. The NDP-Liberal coalition in defeating the PC government has brought upon farmers the highest fuel increases in the history of farming. Bankruptcies for farmers are at an all-time high. In view of this economic emergency which the NDP-Liberal coalition has created for the western farmers I move, seconded by the hon. member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer):

That the government reverse its position on the statutory Crow rate and endorse the retention of the statutory Crow rate for the western Canadian grain farmer.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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• (1415)

THE LATE TOM COSSITT

TRIBUTES TO FORMER MEMBER FOR LEEDS-GRENVILLE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, with the agreement of the House I rise on a point of order to pay tribute to the memory of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville whose sudden death on Monday night was a cause of shock and deep regret to all hon. members of the House of Commons. Certainly I know that I speak on behalf of my colleagues, and I am sure on behalf of members on all sides of the House, in expressing my deepest sympathy to his wife Jennifer, to his family and friends.

Tom Cossitt will be remembered by members of this party as a man of principle and as a skilled and creative parliamentarian. He was a man of tenacity and of courage who held firm views and pursued them vigorously and skilfully. He acquired a reputation for controversy, but that was a consequence of his actions, not the motive for his actions. Tom Cossitt had deep convictions about what was good for his country, and he acted on those convictions with an intensity which quite probably shortened his life.

He first came to the House as an elected member in 1972, and he was re-elected in the federal general elections of 1974, 1979 and 1980. As is known, he was formerly associated with the Liberal Party, but when he came to the House of Commons he came as a Progressive Conservative, and that was a matter on which we count ourselves fortunate.

I knew him as a friend and as a parliamentary colleague who believed firmly that governments should be accountable to the people. That was a rule which he applied equally to all governments, including the one I led. He was a man who was

in awe of no one and who performed his public duties fearlessly. Above all, he was a dedicated and energetic representative of his constituents, placing their needs first.

Tom Cossitt will be missed by all members of the House of Commons and by the people he represented. His colleagues on this side of the House knew him as a man of principle and conviction. His party applauds him. And that is how we will remember him. We join with all members in expressing our sympathy to his wife Jennifer, to his family and to his friends.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I should like to join with the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) in expressing our shock and sadness at the news of the sudden death of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville, Mr. Tom Cossitt. When death strikes one of our colleagues, we are all reminded of the particular burden of stress and responsibility borne by those in public life and, particularly, shared by their families. The demands made upon the health of Members of Parliament are little known or understood outside this chamber, but are no less real for that.

Tom Cossitt earned a reputation as a man who worked hard for the people of Leeds-Grenville, despite serious physical setbacks in recent years. He knew the risks involved in maintaining his accustomed pace of activity, and accepted those risks as the price of public service. He died in the performance of his duties as a Member of Parliament and among constituents whom he was elected to serve.

He was often a partisan politician, as we all are from time to time, but death is not a partisan affair nor is the sorrow we feel for his widow, Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt, in this time of her bereavement. We join together at this time of sadness to express our deepest sympathy and understanding to Mrs. Cossitt, and to the relatives and close friends who are experiencing a grievous sense of loss.

We recognized Mr. Cossitt for his tireless devotion to the interests of the people of Leeds-Grenville. He always had time for the individual constituent who appealed to him for assistance. He realized that while many problems of constituents are routine for a Member of Parliament, they are uniquely important to the individual concerned. Mr. Cossitt was known in his riding as a man who served very well the people whom he was elected to represent. For people who believe profoundly in the value of representative democracy, there can be no higher praise than that.

• (1420)

I hope, Madam Speaker, that you will convey our sentiments to Mrs. Cossitt, and with those sentiments our condolences and sympathy.

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues I would like to join with the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) in extending our deepest sympathy to members of Tom Cossitt's family.