

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tardif):** All those in favour will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tardif):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Tardif):** In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion negatived.

[Translation]

### SHIPPING

#### MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe Bagot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Labour.

In view of the discussion which has just ended and also in view of the situation which prevails in Montreal harbour, would the minister indicate to us what his policy will be and what measures he intends to take in order to correct that situation which is so harmful to the Canadian economy?

[English]

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, one of the parties having taken steps that I intimated nearly two weeks ago they might have taken, and that matter being now before the courts, it is now partly *sub judice*. That is one difficulty. But I would repeat what I said earlier today. I have indicated a willingness to appoint an arbitrator whom I am convinced could settle fairly quickly the points in dispute on an interim basis. I can appoint an arbitrator, however, only if the parties agree, because the collective agreements are now in effect. If they do not agree, my hands are tied. I certainly have been disposed, as I indicated on the 13th, to appoint an arbitrator—you might call him a port controller; I do not know what magic name you might give him—if the parties would only agree to such action on my part.

**Mr. Ricard:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister not consider that the suggestion made by his parliamentary secretary is one that merits very careful consideration, and will he not accept the suggestion of his parliamentary secretary and

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call back Mr. Picard so we may hope something will be done along that line?

**Mr. Nicholson:** I always give very careful consideration to suggestions which come from my parliamentary secretary. I have a very high opinion of him. But I would point out to hon. members—and those who have knowledge of the law will appreciate the significance of this—that once a judge has handed down his judgment and the judgment has been entered, the judge is what we refer to as *functus officio*. In this case Commissioner Picard is through, he is *functus officio*. I have been, and still am, perfectly willing to ask Professor Picard to do this, and would have been in touch with him before this if the parties had indicated a willingness or a desire to have him clarify the situation; but the unions have made it perfectly clear that they do not want Professor Picard to clarify the report. They have said so. They have said he is through. It puts the minister in a rather difficult position when, in law, he is through and one side has pointed out that he has no status at this time and they don't want further action by him.

**Mr. Ricard:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do we now have to take for granted that there is nothing the minister can do, and the dispute has to settle itself?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the minister that the hon. member is now asking an argumentative question which is a repetition of the debate we have had since eleven o'clock this morning.

[Later:]

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Are the unions involved Canadian unions, or are they affiliates of American unions?

**Mr. Nicholson:** They are, of course, Canadian locals—there are some eight of them involved—but they are affiliates of a larger union, the International Longshoremen's Association.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** That being the case, is there any evidence of action here that might eventually direct the movement of exports to, say, certain American ports where the same union would be handling the products?

**Mr. Nicholson:** I do not profess to be an expert on transportation, Mr. Speaker, but if they do not go from the ports of Montreal,