

*Government Orders*

This legislation is necessary. Grain shipments have been blocked. Millions of dollars of grain sales are being lost. Farmers are being hurt. This is not a strike for the workers, it is a strike for the union leaders.

Farm groups are asking for back to work legislation. Border traffic is being disrupted. Vital supplies to businesses are being held up. Business leaders are asking for back to work legislation. Public Service employees are going without pay. Essential service workers are being abused and injured. Nurses are being prevented from caring for Canada's war veterans by Daryl Bean's strikers.

I just want to conclude by saying that the restraint offer by the government is not inconsistent with other government offers. Other government unions did not decide that the strike was in the best interests of their province. The strike is out of control and the legislation is necessary.

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Madam Speaker, I would like to say at the outset that in the last two days I have listened to more blessed codswallop in this place than I thought it would be possible for any one collection of human beings to produce.

Let us take a couple of the highlights in turn. First of all, this concept that Daryl Bean is somehow the demon that is compelling all of these hapless, innocent, sheep-like public servants to suddenly become ravening wolves, clawing at the throats of the Canadian people, is ludicrous, is madness. No one person has the power to effect that kind of response in any large group of people.

All that Daryl Bean is doing is voicing effectively, and I might say with a great deal of restraint, the seething anger of his membership. It is that seething anger that has been produced by this government that is being manifested on picket lines across this country. Nobody likes that. Not even the people engaging in it like it. But to lay the blame for it on Daryl Bean is to completely, wilfully misrepresent the facts of the matter.

The demon in this conflict is not Daryl Bean. The demon in this conflict is the set of policies of a government determined to press down on the people of this country, the ordinary working people in jobs across this country, private sector and public sector, so that their

rich friends, their corporate buddies can reap even more of the produce of this country.

The reason the government gives us for the necessity of this bill is basically threefold. Everyone else in the country is getting kicked in the teeth, so why not public servants? Why should they be different? It makes a virtue of the fact that its economic policies are destroying communities across the country and says: "Because that is happening we have got to do it to the Public Service too". That is nuts.

Second, "We have to fight inflation or recession". It changes from speaker to speaker. The fact of the matter is that the public sector wage bill comprises about 3.5 per cent of the total expenditures of this government. To say that somehow by reigning in that 3.5 per cent we are going to bring inflation screeching to a halt in this country, or somehow yank the country out of recession, is madness. It is economic voodoo.

Third, "We have to send a signal that we know how to restrain ourselves and therefore everybody else will too". I have got bad news for the signal is not getting through.

A recent copy of *The Financial Post* carries a story headlined "Recession doesn't hurt bosses' pay". I have a whole table here of the pay rates of top executives in the Toronto area which shows, for example, in 1991 your average president, CEO or general manager is going to get a raise of 10.2 per cent. Your top finance and administration executive is going to get a raise of 8.3 per cent. This is on top of similar raises in the previous two years.

The signal it says it is sending is not getting through. The signal it is really sending is coming through loud and clear. That signal is: "Hey, you big shots, you top rollers, you just keep rolling high because we are in your corner". The proof of that is its utter refusal to change any of the odious personal and corporate tax provisions that might do something to return a bit of equity to the taxation system, to the rates of pay for top executives and thus to the rates of pay of its own people.

For example, the manufacturing and processing tax credit is \$1 billion a year, gone like that. One billion dollars, bye, bye. We could pay for a 3 per cent raise for all Treasury Board employed public sector workers this