

Maintenance of Railway Operation Act

will have been reached, an agreement which will give the men retroactive pay for the time they were negotiating.

There is nothing here, Mr. Speaker, in any way contradictory of the action which is now being taken—keep the railways running; provide for further negotiations—

Mr. Pearson: Give the men nothing.

Mr. Starr: —with some chance of success, and leaving the door open to retroactivity in consideration of the time lost. That is what is being done now.

Mr. Pearson: Implementing the minority report.

Mr. Starr: This is not a return to compulsory arbitration which, as the then hon. member for Spadina pointed out, means the end of the collective bargaining process as we know it.

The stand which he took then is the stand which labour has taken through the years, and that is the stand that labour takes today.

Mr. Pearson: On this bill.

Mr. Starr: This afternoon the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) talked about imposed settlement. That is another phrase for compulsory arbitration.

Mr. Pearson: I did not talk this afternoon.

Mr. Starr: In answer to the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Benidickson), if he will look at page 77 of *Hansard* for August 30, 1950, he will see that the then hon. member for Spadina voted with the yeas on an amendment introduced by Mr. Drew, on which the house divided, which was negative on the division which is there set out.

Mr. Pearson: What about second reading?

Mr. Benidickson: I asked you to refer to the principle of the bill, which was second reading. It is reported at page 67 of *Hansard*.

Mr. Pearson: Give us the facts. You are a little confused.

Mr. Chevrier: Like the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Starr: He voted with the opposition that day on third reading.

Mr. Pearson: What about second reading? That is what we are talking about now.

Mr. Starr: To come down to hard facts—

Mr. Pickersgill: That would be a change.

Mr. Starr: —I pointed out that the hon. member had voted on third reading against the government of that day, and he was a member of the government.

[Mr. Starr.]

Mr. Hees: That is why he never made the cabinet; he went against the government.

Mr. Starr: If the government had imposed a settlement of any kind at this time it would have been compulsory arbitration, whether it was the majority report of the conciliation board or any other settlement.

Some hon. members this afternoon have said that this bill takes away the right to strike.

Mr. Pearson: It certainly does.

Mr. Starr: All this bill does is suspend the right to strike for the time being.

Mr. Pickersgill: You have the right, but you cannot exercise it.

Mr. Starr: They can take action which is provided under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, could I ask the minister a question: What will they be allowed to do on May 15?

Mr. Starr: It is open to them—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may ask the minister this question: What will be the situation on May 15? The government has said that all it is doing is postponing the situation. What will happen on May 15 if the men decide to strike?

Mr. Benidickson: The minister has already said he will give them the opportunity to strike on May 15.

Mr. Starr: The complete processes as set out under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act will be available to both sides.

Mr. Pearson: Can they strike?

Mr. Starr: Under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act their right to strike—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Will the government prevent them from carrying out that action?

Mr. Starr: We do not believe that compulsion is the solution of the problem. We believe that collective bargaining and an agreement arrived at by both parties is the best method for settling disputes of this nature.

Mr. Denis: Answer yes or no.

Mr. Hees: You mean, like the hon. member for Essex East did this afternoon to me?

Mr. Starr: This is the dilemma in which the opposition has found itself in this debate. I say this, that either they must be prepared to accept the consequences of a national strike, or they must take the responsibility