

Labour Conditions

what happened to the profits of the Irving company, or to the profits of Abitibi, or Bathurst Consolidated? No. After all, profits of corporations are sacrosanct and cannot be touched. Are their prices going to come down? Of course not.

The clown chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, a former cabinet minister, former director of half a dozen companies, who will have earned the undying support of the corporations so that when he leaves his \$50,000 job he will get appointed to a dozen corporations or boards, will guarantee that they are entitled to at least 95 per cent of the profits they have made during the last five years, and of course they will be happy with that. They have never made so much money, so why should they not be satisfied? We know from Revenue Canada that there is no real way to monitor the profits. We know they will go up more than that.

It is no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the unions went on strike. They went on strike before the act was proclaimed. They reached an agreement before the administrator had been appointed. They asked the administrator as soon as he was appointed to investigate the matter, but he said he could not do so until it was referred to him by the board. Weeks later it was referred to him, and then he made a finding that the company had violated the act. Will the workers who will not be able to get the increase for which they went on strike be able to appeal that decision or go to a court? No. They will not even be able to go to the appeal tribunal.

With regard to the appeal tribunal, it is chaired by a former civil servant with a great record. He was a deputy minister of manpower and immigration and was a failure. So he was moved out of that position and was made chairman of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. He was a disaster there, so they made him chairman of the Tariff Board. Then having failed there, he has now been made chairman of the appeal tribunal. Is it any wonder that the workers are unhappy? Is it any wonder that responsible trade union leaders are withdrawing from all boards and commissions appointed over the years? If we are to have polarization and class conflicts in this country of the kind that we have not seen since the 1930s, it will be because of the unthinking, unfeeling, cynical policies of this government.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) wins an election by promising the Canadian people that there will be no wage controls because wage controls are unfair and will harm them. He gets elected with an increased majority on this promise. He then proceeds to steal the program of the opposition party, and then has the gall to criticize all members of the opposition who said we should have controls, when he opposed them, as well as those who opposed controls when he opposed them and who still oppose them, and says we are somehow being unpatriotic or worse. There has been no such act of cynicism in the history of Canadian politics in the more than 100 years that we have been a country. We know parliament has voted on this question and that the government has the legislation it wants enacted.

We know that until the legislation is changed by parliament, or until the courts declare, as I think they will, that parliament has no constitutional authority to pass this

legislation, the legislation is law. We know that like any other law it should be lived up to, observed, and obeyed by all citizens of this country. Justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done. There is no justice and there can be no appearance of justice with a law which, either by accident or by design, is imperfect. I do not know whether this was by accident or by design, but I have been here too long and watched Liberal governments too often to believe this was entirely accidental. It is obvious that this law is flawed and leaves a great deal to be desired.

We did not have to sit here from eight o'clock this evening till 12.30 tonight listening to the sanctimonious approach of the Minister of the Environment and the Postmaster General. We did not need the Minister of Labour to come over here privately and ask us why we do not stop talking because he knows we are right and the government is going to amend the legislation. All the Prime Minister had to do yesterday, a week ago, or today, was admit there was something wrong with this legislation and say the government intended to correct it. All he had to do was be decent and honest enough to do that and we would not have had this debate tonight.

Had the Prime Minister done that we would not now have the responsible, hard working and decent leadership of the labour movement threatening to withdraw from the Economic Council of Canada, from the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee, and from that newborn babe created by the Minister of Labour, the Canada Labour Relations Council. We did not need any of this if the Prime Minister had done what anybody with any decency would have done; simply say he was prepared to amend the legislation.

Any decent and responsible individual would have done this if it were true, as has been alleged, and as I believe is now obvious, that in fact the working people who are directly affected by decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board, arbitrators, and possibly tribunals, do not have the right to appeal, as does any citizen of this country in respect of any other law passed by a government, federal, provincial or municipal. Had the Prime Minister done this we would not be here tonight.

I hope those who suggest the imperfection of this law was an accident and not deliberate are correct. I hope in the next day or two, or the next week, we will have the Minister of Labour, or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald), who piloted the original anti-inflation legislation through parliament, rise in his seat and move the first reading of a bill amending this legislation and making it clear without any doubt, and without any need to go to court or hire a high priced lawyer, that any worker or union that feels a ruling of the Anti-Inflation Board or an administrator is in fact contrary to the law, will have the right to go to court as would be the case in respect of any other law passed by this parliament or by any other jurisdiction in this country.

● (0020)

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the motion that is before us tonight really refers to two items. One is the allegation in the motion that the CLC has announced its intention to withdraw from co-operative