

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

area, where last Saturday some men carried placards in front of the various defence units, to back up their demands for wages and settlement of other outstanding issues.

These men belong to local 273. They comprise labourers, yardcraft employees, and motor transport workers. I think it can be said that their union leadership is a respectable and conservative one, but they felt they have not been able to make the progress they wanted, and so they took this method, this form of demonstration over the week end, and very quickly may I say for the record it in no way cut into the work they perform for the Department of National Defence.

With respect to the wage issue, they work alongside people who have been classified in the ship repair group and who have received wage increases. The labouring group and most of the motor transport group have not received increases since October, 1965. I suppose this gives rise to the inevitable in any place where a large number of men are working and some have enjoyed the benefit of a wage increase while others have not.

There is also a complaint that certain provisions of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code were not implemented for the yardcraft and auxiliary vessel workers.

Further, because integration is in progress, there have been five or six cases involving discipline, although I believe that in the previous 20 years there were no disciplinary cases at all. I suppose the discipline cases arise because the civilian and military personnel are being fitted together and have not yet learned to adjust to each other or co-exist.

● (10:10 p.m.)

I imagine that this is not a continuing thing. Eventually, when all the kinks are ironed out, there should be no problem in that regard. I think I have spoken too long, because when I asked the question of the Associate Minister of National Defence today I really wished to give him an opportunity to make a statement on the various points which are still at issue, so that I can send the issue of *Hansard* to the men who are concerned. Under our procedure sometimes it is difficult for a cabinet minister to get his points across on any occasion when he might wish to do so. It would be helpful if cabinet ministers were allowed to do this. I could pursue that point, but I shall do so at another time because I should like to hear the answer from the associate minister.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): I am always pleased to note the interesting questions raised by my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. McCleave).

With regard to this particular question, I have been informed that last Friday officers at Canadian forces base, Halifax, including the senior civilian personnel officer of maritime command, met with officials of Local 273 to discuss a seven point protest which had previously been submitted by the union.

Talks between the union and command will continue and I am informed that a senior staff officer at maritime command expects to meet with the union either tomorrow or Wednesday. The director general of civilian personnel at national defence headquarters is following the matter closely and will inform me of the progress that is being made.

I am very pleased, as is the hon. member, to note that no work stoppage occurred as the result of the protest demonstration, and I would like to thank the union members and officials for averting a work stoppage during a particularly busy period.

I do not wish to go into further particulars, but I have been given to understand that some concession will be made in respect to at least four of the seven points raised by the union, and discussion will continue on the remaining points. This particular question which was raised by the hon. member about the rates of pay is one in respect of which we always give the stock answer, for the time being anyway, that collective bargaining has been introduced and therefore it is a question which really is out of our hands at this time. I hope that for the time being the hon. member will be satisfied with the answer, that we are doing our utmost to come to grips with these problems and that we will meet the union as far as we can. I repeat that we are pretty sure that of the seven points at least four can be settled, and that discussion can be continued in respect of the other three.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

[The following items were passed in Committee of Supply this day:]

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25.