

*West Coast Ports Operations Act*

I agree with the Hon. Member for North Vancouver-Burnaby when he says that the employers are not 100 per cent right and the employees are not 100 per cent right. I have yet to meet anyone who is 100 per cent right. The Government must get together with both sides to deal with matters such as containers and shift differentials. This should be done either through a Royal Commission, judicial inquiry, conciliation or mediation.

These problems cannot be dealt with unless job security is also dealt with. Do not ask a worker in any occupation in this country to agree to more job insecurity because he will then be all the harder to bargain with. Who can blame them? All of us would act in the same manner. No one in this place can stand up and point fingers with any kind of a holier than thou attitude except concerning what I just said about the failure to act on what has been causing these difficulties. This has happened for the fifth time in ten years over our ports. It must be dealt with and it can be dealt with. No one says it will be easy. However, if none of us want to face this kind of situation again, and I include the Minister of Labour, if he lasts long enough in his portfolio, then he is the one who must take the lead. He and this Government must take the lead, and I am sure they would have the blessing of Hon. Members on this side of the House if they were to get together with the long-shoremen, employers and harbour authorities to arrive at an equitable solution to the difficulties which arise whenever contracts are up for renewal, no matter how long it takes, whether six months or a year.

● (1650)

I do not want to oppose the legislation, but because of what is in it and, more particularly, what is not in it, and because of my desire of myself and that of my colleagues and, I am confident, that of Hon. Members in the other two parties, we should continue to strive not only for sincerity but also for consistency and integrity, for our previous actions mean that we must vote against the legislation. I hope my remaining colleagues will understand because they have also been in the same position at one time or another and we will probably be there again on another occasion over another dispute. Who knows? But that is what we are facing. I cannot support the legislation. Much as I would like to get the ports operating again and elevator agents, railroaders and farmers going again, the legislation flies in the face of what we said and did over six and five, and also hits co-operatives and wheat pools, which are already under the six and five regime on the handling charges for country elevator systems, in the face of rising costs—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Order, please. I must inform the Hon. Member that the time allocated for his speech is now exhausted. He may continue only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** There is not unanimous consent.

Is the House ready for the question?

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I will not be very long but I think it is important to put some thoughts on the record with regard to what we have before us today. What we are seeing from the Government is another example of the way in which it approaches the economy of Canada. Over the past number of years and, in particular, over the last two years, the Government has shown that it is a government of crisis management, that it never does any advance work, that it never considers the long-term implications of its actions, that it never involves itself in problems as they arise in an effort to avoid their reaching the crisis level, that it is constantly trying to patch together the results of its own lack of understanding, the problems resulting from its own lack of understanding of many of the conflicts which have arisen across the country.

I want to say to the Government that some eight or ten days ago it was suggested to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Caccia) that he should go to Vancouver to sit down with the parties involved in the dispute and that he should make a personal effort to bring them together. I want to suggest that that is not out of character with what other ministers of Labour have done in the past. However, this Minister of Labour chose not to do it. I wonder why he did not choose to go. Was it because he felt that he was incompetent or perhaps did not have the knowledge or expertise in the field of labour relations to be of any particular value? Was it because he felt that the parties involved in the dispute would perhaps not take kindly to a minister who really had no background in the field forcing himself into the dispute, or was there a reason which was even worse? Did he fail to go to Vancouver because those in the Cabinet and Government thought in the back of their minds that they wanted to impose the six and five regime? Did he fail to make the effort when it might well have resulted in success because the Government carefully considered the possible implications and came to the conclusion that, if it did not take part in finding a solution, it would be able to impose on this part of the private sector that which it was imposing on the public sector? I do not want to try to guess what was in the Minister's mind, but it is not unreasonable to think that that may well have been in the minds of some of the members of the Cabinet.

I can recall that last week the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) stood in his place and was putting his financial statement before the House of Commons. In the middle of it he stopped and inserted certain paragraphs which were not contained in the original document. Those paragraphs directly related to the labour dispute which was going on in the Port of Vancouver. On Wednesday, the House resumed sitting, he said that if this dispute were not resolved "by Monday midnight next, the Government will move in and solve it". I know that your own experience in labour relations, Mr. Speaker, will allow you to understand that if one were somewhat reluctantly sitting at the negotiating table and either management or