

Government Orders

keep these employees on staff so they would not be laid off. He said he could not do that.

He says that we must dip into the taxpayers' pockets to take more taxes to give to the employees and that we must borrow more for this next generation to do that. He would not do it for his employees.

Talk about a hypocrite. He says that we are trying to pick the strike.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask hon. members to confine their remarks if they do insist on heckling to comments that are not likely to cause disorder in the House and I am sure I do not have to say that again.

The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, on September 13 in *The Ottawa Sun* Ron Corbett reports that he was called by a person who was on strike at home, not on the picket line, who said he felt he should be at work but was afraid to cross the picket line.

He is a former union representative, he was president of the local.

In May he quit his union post.

"The more I saw, the more convinced I became that this wasn't a union for the workers, it was a union for the people at the top".

My caller says his dissatisfaction with PSAC started last year, when the support staff at PSAC headquarters went on strike—and Daryl Bean played hardball.

The PSAC workers were looking for 5 per cent wage increases—

Remember, this is at a time when members of PSAC itself got 4.8 per cent.

Bean, who handled the negotiations personally, offered only 3 per cent. It's the same amount, we all know, that the federal government once offered Bean.

At one point during the conflict Bean went so far as to lock his workers out of PSAC headquarters, and that riled my caller to no end.

"I don't think any union man should lock out his workers—the whole affair struck me as utter hypocrisy, a case of 'do as I say, not as I do.'"—

—Bean told him later that the workers should be happy with 3 per cent because their benefits were better than those of workers in the private sector, and any way, the union was short of money.

Well, well, well. When the President of the Treasury Board says we have pretty good benefits for our employees but we are short of money, we are outrageous,

we are terrible, we have no concern. When Daryl Bean does it, oh, well, that is all right.

Then members opposite stand up and say that we tried to trigger a strike.

Here is what the caller said to Ron Corbett:

I'm convinced that Bean wanted a strike. It was important to him that he turn PSAC into a powerful, militant union.

He goes on to say that the strike was never about wages or a new collective agreement. It was about power.

CUPW is another labour situation that has not been resolved. They offered and imposed on their employees 2 per cent over 18 months, half of what they went on strike for at the post office.

Shirley Carr says we are in a street fight. "Security, we demand security. We demand that you stop contracting out. We demand that you stop privatizing and deregulating. We demand security for these employees".

The CLC negotiated job security out of the contract it had with its own employees six years ago. Work for the CLC six years ago and you had job security. Work for the CLC today, you do not. It was negotiated out by the same Shirley Carr who says that we are treating our employees unfairly.

It is ironic in many ways that we have these statements by Bean and Parrot and Carr and Bob White. It is frustrating. For contrary to their own actions the unions are asking us to do things they have chosen not to do for their own workers.

They want us to raise taxes or borrow the money in order to meet their demands. Our choice has been to restrict spending, the same choice unions are making. We think it is a responsible choice in the best interests of all Canadians.

I am tired of the accusations about members of Parliament. Since 1984, the inflation rate has been 29.6. Members of Parliament salaries have gone up 17.6. We did get the travel allowance. Not mentioned in any of these discussions is that for the last several years in a row, each year according to formula, the travel expenses of public servants have been raised. The per diem expenses when they are on the road have been raised. Their fringe benefits have been raised all along the line. People insist on talking about our fringe benefits, but not those fringe benefits. Let us look at the whole package.