

*Labour Dispute at Montreal***AFTER RECESS**

Immigration and bringing into that group the Minister of Transport in an attempt to overcome this problem.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Where would you find the Minister of Transport?

**Mr. Forrestall:** He has not been in the house, I grant you, but he must be afoot somewhere. In any event the suggestion made by my hon. friend from Kamloops is sound and should be pursued.

The second point I wish to raise is connected with the difficulties which seem to be arising in the interpretation of the Picard report. I would simply draw the minister's attention to the fact that for some two years the basic recommendations in this report have formed a very satisfactory working arrangement in the ports of Halifax and Saint John. In these circumstances, even if the minister is not legally able to intervene he can at least make clear through his actions in the House of Commons and through those of the officials of his department that on moral grounds there is an urgent necessity for the parties concerned to come together and stay together until the present difficulty has been resolved. It would be simple for me to stand up here and say don't do it. We welcome the business in the port of Halifax but, unlike Montreal, we do not welcome business at the expense of the other ports of Canada; we like to do business in other ways than that.

Third, I would be grateful if when he speaks later the minister would give us some idea, as to what the situation is likely to be in view of the proceedings before the courts in Montreal today. Just what will be the repercussions of this in terms of disruption not only in Montreal but possibly throughout Canada, bearing in mind that there is an obligation on the part of the unions to support each other when, in their view, an issue is just?

In summary, I join with my senior colleague in urging the minister to bring under his wing the new Minister of Transport; it would do him good to get his feet wet. Then, as I say, for some two years the ingredients of the Picard report have formed the basis of working arrangements in Halifax and Saint John. We have experienced absolute stability there and we can tell the world, if it wants stability, to send its goods to Halifax and Saint John. And this stability has been achieved on this basis of the report which seems to be causing the difficulty.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I want briefly, to add my voice to those of members who have already spoken during this important debate. I feel I would be derelict in my duty if I did not take advantage of this opportunity to support my western colleagues in particular, and hon. members in general with respect to the emergency situation that has arisen in the port of Montreal. Various hon. members have mentioned the general effects of this emergency on our economy as a whole, but coming from Saskatchewan where our economy depends to a large extent on the welfare of agriculture I wish to say, as was said by the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre (Mr. Pascoe) and the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. McIntosh), that we in the west are naturally concerned about the loss of markets, slowdown of shipments of grain and the resulting loss to the economy as it affects the farmers of western Canada.

I must compliment the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) for introducing the adjournment motion and also you, Mr. Speaker, for your discernment in granting this debate under the rules. I would like to suggest to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) that he take a leaf out of the book of the former minister of labour, the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr), with respect to the way he handled similar emergencies during his term of office. If the minister would look over the record he would find that the former minister's record was an excellent one. The former minister adopted practices and policies that worked out very successfully, and I think this would be the logical thing to do in the present emergency.

I would also agree with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) that the setting up of a ministerial task force might be the best way to get us out of this altercation. It is said that two or three heads are better than one under circumstances such as the present, and having such a task force might influence both labour and management and help them to get together as soon as possible.

I know that members of parliament will receive strong representations about this matter. It has already been mentioned that the Canadian Association of Exporters, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Western wheat pools, the Federation of Agriculture, the National Farm Union and