

Government Orders

Mr. O'Kurley: Mr. Speaker, following on what I said about the opposition of the NDP and the union movement to any form of co-operation whatsoever between government, management, and the workers, confirmation can be found on page 13 of this constitution: "In line with opposition to industrial democracy, the union condemns any and all attempts by labour bodies to establish partnerships between labour and government, or between labour, government, and employers".

"Within the trade union movement the union wants to promote and strengthen a militant and combative front with which to oppose any form of co-operation with management and government serving management's interests".

The most successful economies in the world have demonstrated that the way to become successful is through team work, through working together. We have seen that in Japan, in Germany, particularly the western part of Germany.

We have also seen the result of socialist policies in the former Soviet Union. We have seen the destruction and the degradation of the economy there.

We find that the NDP, through its support and through its control by the union movement rejects any form of co-operation.

We have seen what has gone on in the former Soviet Union.

Would the NDP come clean? Publicly it supports the notion of co-operative efforts between labour and management. It supports the notion publicly of improved relations and teamwork, yet it does not seem to be coming clean with the Canadian people in the sense that it also supports this document, this secret constitution by the union that seems to provide a different story for Canadians.

Which does it support, the idea of conflict and confrontation or the idea of co-operation?

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to answer that question. I would say the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

In fact, regardless of what quotations the member may choose to select out of a document that he claims is a secret constitution, the fact is that last year, for example, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers attempted to co-operate.

I know that in Toronto the union asked that the old age pensions and other government cheques be made available for distribution before the legal strike date. The post office refused. It asked after the strike had begun on the legal strike date if it would be allowed to deliver them as volunteers. The post office refused.

Instead, the post office set up special stations and invited the public to come and collect its mail. Half the time, according to complaints from my constituents, their mail was not at the stations on the day they were told it would be.

The co-operation in action was on the side of the union, not on the side of the company.

Furthermore, I have experience of my own with a union, the Canadian Paper Workers Union. During the 18 years I worked in a factory I was a shop steward and I was secretary of the local. I took part in grievance bargaining, in contract bargaining. As a delegate to the Labour Council in metropolitan Toronto, I had regular reports from other delegates on the progress of their union affairs.

My point is that the labour movement and the NDP, to the extent that we are affiliated with the labour movement, are trying to get fair and reasonable bargaining. More than 90 per cent of contracts are settled without a strike or even intervention by the government in the way of mediation or arbitration. Of course, that does not hit the newspapers.

During the 18 years I worked at the Continental Can box plant we did not have a strike. But the people who want to blame the unions for all disputes simply do not look at the huge majority of times when the unions are the ones making the concessions in order to get the operation working again.

I am sorry that the hon. member has such a closed mind on the matter.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to follow the hon. member for Trinity—Spadina, my neighbour actually. Parkdale—High Park and Trinity—Spadina are neighbouring ridings.

We used to do joint television programs, but then I discovered that the Liberal ideology is quite different from the NDP ideology so I canned that in a hurry.

An hon. member: He was with Continental Can.