

Summer Recess

sitting if there happens to be a strike in some other industry in the country.

I hear the voice of reactionary essential services legislation. I have already dealt with my view that people should have the right to strike legally, and under the controlled provisions of the statutes such as we have at the present time rather than the jungle of illegal strikes which inevitably flow from the hon. member's particular approach.

Mr. Beatty: You just want to have your summer vacation.

Mr. Regan: The hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) says I only want my summer vacation. I want to assure him, as he knows from his own not so lengthy career as a minister, that the fact that Parliament rises does not do away with the work which has to continue in the department.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1600)

Mr. Regan: The next point I want to make in summary, Mr. Speaker, is that having Parliament sitting is not helping to bring those parties to a settlement. Unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition is not interested in a negotiated settlement; he wants something which is achieved by Parliament so that he can appear to have played a political role in it.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Regan: Finally, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Malone: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan:—without much hope of results but in very good faith, I want to implore the Leader of the Opposition to stand up to the rednecks in the backbenches. I want him to recede from the position he has taken which is interfering with the settlement of the strike, to abandon that position and recognize that the best interests of the postal workers, the Post Office and its customers, and the Canadian public in general—

An hon. Member: And the Liberal party.

Mr. Regan:—would be served if he allows Judge Gold to mediate not in a goldfish bowl, but rather in the normal circumstances which would occur if Parliament followed the schedule it agreed to earlier last week.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I hope it will be appropriate if I try to speak in rational terms and try to keep cool. My doing so may not attract as much of an audience as the last two speakers, but we are debating a very serious matter.

In case those who might be watching us on television wonder what the motion before us is—they probably think it must in some way relate to the postal strike—I would point out that the motion in the name of the President of the Privy Council

(Mr. Pinard) calls for this House to adjourn on the day the motion is passed, whenever that might be, and to stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 14. In other words, we are debating the possibility of a summer break for the House of Commons.

The motion includes a provision that is always in such a resolution, namely that if the Speaker, after consultation with the government, feels there is an issue about which Parliament should meet, Parliament can be recalled. I have abbreviated it, but that is the whole motion we are debating this afternoon. We debated it last Friday and we will debate it until it is finally disposed of one way or the other.

An hon. Member: Does that mean closure, Stanley?

Mr. Knowles: My hon. friend asks if that means closure. I hope it is in order for me to say that I have been told there will be no closure on this motion. There cannot be a Standing Order 75C—

An hon. Member: Standing Order 75B.

Mr. Knowles: There can be no Standing Order 75B or C on a motion. Standing Orders 75A, B and C can be applied only to a bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is understandable and quite natural that the debate has turned to the postal strike. However many speeches there may be in this debate this afternoon or tomorrow, most of them will probably deal with that situation. My colleagues and I are as concerned as every other member in this House, and most of the people in Canada, about the seriousness of the strike of CUPW. We earnestly hope this situation can soon be resolved, and the place we think it should be resolved is at the bargaining table through negotiations. We regret it has gone on as long as it has. We are aware of the inconvenience and suffering being experienced by many people, and we earnestly hope that the appointment of Judge Alan Gold and his acceptance by both sides is a good omen. He has a reputation as a very effective mediator, and I think if we give him the chance there is reason to believe the postal strike might soon be settled.

Having said that, I suppose it follows almost automatically that I believe we should give him the chance. I do not think it helps for us to stay here monitoring this situation, watching it, standing over the mediation proceedings and giving the impression that if they fail Parliament is ready to jump in with back to work legislation. I think the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) was quite right in the position he took. He added a few political barbs which perhaps will not shorten the debate, but he was quite right in the position he took that we should not be interfering with that bargaining process by staying here when it was our intention to leave.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hope we can come to an agreement without too much debate to take our planned summer break, and leave it to Judge Gold, the Treasury Board and CUPW to reach a settlement as soon as possible. The motion provides that if the government decides that Parliament should