

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

• (10:20 p.m.)

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a bad practice, and the only way we can get it curbed is by protesting with any means at our disposal. I myself, raised the point very briefly having been Speaker, so that I wonder if this practice outside the chamber should not be overseen and proper facilities made available for interviews instead of this catch-as-catch-can practice which we see outside these quarters.

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): I will refrain from discussing the roster system which the hon. gentleman has raised in his seven minutes. I must also refrain from endorsing or rejecting his suggestion that the machinists union is responsible for the breakdown in labour relations with Air Canada. This is a matter of opinion to which the hon. gentleman is entitled. If he feels that labour is to blame, he is entitled to that opinion. However, I, as Minister of Labour, am not in a position to state who is to blame until this very disruptive strike comes to an end.

I do not think the hon. gentleman would expect me to get up here and blame the unions any more than he would expect me to blame Air Canada. But I might say that there is a pattern of labour unrest in Air Canada. I do not think this is an isolated case. It is an isolated case only in the sense that there has been strike action. But after having been involved in negotiations of this nature, let me tell you that the relations between Air Canada and unions in general leave much to be desired.

In so far as making statements outside the house is concerned, I must plead as guilty to it as are other ministers. In all honesty, I think I was rather short in my answer the

other day, but this is a welcome change because I am usually accused of and constantly being admonished by the Speaker for making my answers into statements.

With regard to television facilities outside the chamber, may I say that I think the hon. gentleman, being a fair individual, will admit that the use of television is not restricted to cabinet ministers, Liberal backbenchers or members of the government in particular. If he were to review the time spent before television cameras in the centre block or outside these doors he would find, I am sure, that the time is justly apportioned between all parties. I am sure that when the hon. gentleman has something of importance to say he is always welcome before the television cameras and, I am sure, takes full opportunity to express his words of wisdom over television. I am sure that most Canadians, knowing the hon. gentleman's reputation as former Speaker and a seasoned member of the House of Commons, always listen to his television interventions with a great degree of interest, certainly greater than to anything the Minister of Labour would say.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): May I say, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Mackasey: But as former Speaker of the House of Commons, he also knows he is not supposed to interrupt the speaker at this particular time. I will also say that the next time he asks a question in the House of Commons I will be as expansive as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As the existing Speaker I must interrupt the minister. The motion to adjourn the house is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this house stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.25 p.m.