

*Government Orders*

wick, a wage freeze as well. In spite of the offers of all those provincial governments, the civil servants in those provinces did not feel it was necessary to engage in a confrontation with their governments, perhaps because they realized that wage restraint was not unreasonable.

I recognize the necessity for civil servants to ensure that they do not regress in terms of their purchasing power. But it is important to recognize as well, not only in the public sector but also in the private sector, that when wages rise faster than productivity the result is inflation. If you have a 3 per cent increase in your wages and you have a resulting pressure on inflation that results in a 9 per cent inflation rate, the over-all purchasing power is not generally improved.

In addition to provincial wage offers at zero per cent, we see other examples of wage restraint. The Sydney Steel Corporation, for example, in Nova Scotia offered a zero per cent wage freeze and the labour group there accepted it. Generally speaking, there have been accusations about union bashing and there have been accusations that the government has targeted the worker specifically. But if you look at other government initiatives, with regard to fiscal restraint, you wouldn't really call it union bashing. When you look at the 10 per cent cut in government management positions, including middle management and upper management, and when you look at the spending cap imposed on transfer payments you wouldn't really consider that to be union bashing.

Madam Speaker, governments are not the only ones considering their capacity to pay. Certain employers had to reduce their wage bills in light of their financial resources, as was mentioned earlier. Daryl Bean, among others, had to lay off 15 workers not so long ago. These same workers certainly would have been satisfied with a zero, three and three policy.

It is becoming increasingly more apparent that this strike is not a strike for the workers. It is a strike for the union leaders. This strike is not a strike to gain more benefits and to help out the workers. This strike is a strike to gain more power for Daryl Bean.

As a matter of fact, in a recent communication with the *Ottawa Sun* newspaper, a former union leader—as a matter of fact, he was president of a local with the PSAC

union—is quoted as saying “The more I saw, the more convinced I became this wasn't a union for the workers, it was a union for the people at the top.”

Madam Speaker, if you look at the results of the union strike vote, you will see that only 24 per cent of the eligible voters voted to support the strike. Only 40 per cent of all eligible members actually voted in the strike vote. Of that 40 per cent, only 60 per cent of the 40 per cent voted in favour of the strike. You do not have to be a mathematician to figure out that less than one-quarter of union members voted to support this strike.

• (2140)

As I mentioned, this is not a strike for the workers. This is a strike to gain more power for the union leaders. We have seen examples of workers being intimidated to follow the union line, union tactics that condone beating people up who want to work. There are even reports of unions bringing in professional agitators and thugs.

This strike is out of control. In Ottawa, there was a report of a mentally disabled contract worker who was roughed up while trying to go to work. She suffered extreme distress, as did her senior mother who was escorting her. As well, a medical doctor was pushed from his bicycle while trying to make it to a hospital to perform surgery. The doctor received a mild concussion. Nurses at veterans hospitals are being prevented from caring for Canada's war veterans. There are reports of handfuls of nails being thrown on airport roads, bridges being blocked, traffic being disrupted.

What is most interesting is the inconsistency that we see in Daryl Bean in that while he insists that his union leaders adhere to the union line, adhere to the union constitution and follow the union rules of going out on strike, even though they may not agree with the strike, he feels that on the other hand, it may be appropriate to disagree with Canadian law. So if the Parliament of Canada passes a law he says union members are justified in continuing the strike and breaking the law. He says it is okay within his own organization. He says union members have to follow the union line and they have to follow the constitution of the union. Well, it cannot be both ways.

This Daryl Bean strike is out of control and Daryl Bean is out of control.