

been initiated in consequence of which you are here to-day. Were those men let out in consequence of that, or were they left over from the strike?—  
A. No. They were left over from the strike.

Q. The assertion was made in the House that representations were made by the head of the Union Steamship Company—it was not an assertion but a statement—that they could not be taken on again because the Canadian government were objecting to them employing them. As a matter of fact, it was because of the strike that these were men who were not taken back?—  
A. Yes.

Mr. MACINNIS: The point that was made in the House was, I think, that the management had taken the decision that they would not take them back because of the objection taken by the government.

*By Mr. Neill:*

Q. Which it appears is not correct.—A. As a matter of fact, Mr. Harold Brown wanted to take them back, and the Congress of Canadian Organizations were actually the first to put in a protest against their re-employment.

*By Mr. Reid:*

Q. It would appear that Harold Brown was using this resolution here as an excuse for taking back the seamen, but as a matter of fact there was not any truth in it at all.—A. That is exactly how it appears to me.

Q. That is an exact statement of it.—A. That is exactly how it appears to me. It was the Congress of Canadian Organizations that took the matter up first and that was two weeks ago.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

*By Mr. MacInnis:*

Q. I should like to ask a few questions, Mr. O'Donovan. How many members are there in your organization?—A. At the present time there are 400; that is, in good financial standing.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What has been the maximum membership of your organization?—  
A. Well, I will tell you, the whole membership consisted at one time of 800 members.

*By Mr. MacInnis:*

Q. In putting white men on the ships, you are asking that a preference should first be given to the native sons of Canada?—A. Absolutely.

Q. Are all the members of your union native sons of Canada?—A. Well, I may assure you that at the present time the biggest majority are native sons.

Q. The biggest majority are native sons?—A. Yes.

Q. In finding employment for the members of your union, that would be discrimination on the basis of nationality; that is, on the basis of Canadian citizenship?—A. Yes.

Q. For example, if both Mr. Reid and myself were members of the union and there was a position on a ship, I would have the preference because I was a native son?—A. If you had the qualifications.

Q. Surely; if our qualifications were equal, I would have the preference as against Mr. Reid, because I happened to be born in Canada and he happened to be born in the United Kingdom.—A. Yes.

[Mr. Charles Patrick O'Donovan.]