

"Mr. Gordon, I am going to go over your head and try to get your ruling reversed. I will go to a member of parliament or to the Minister of Transport", or if a member of parliament should come to me and threaten me or try to influence my judgment by threats or activities which would put pressure upon me, that would be improper. But nothing of that sort has ever happened.

Mr. POULIOT: We can speak to you without threatening you.

Mr. GORDON: Absolutely. In fact, you could even threaten me in proper circumstances and I would not regard it as improper.

Mr. POULIOT: Well, I never threaten anybody.

Mr. GORDON: That is quite right.

Mr. GEORGE: Yesterday Mr. Gordon made two statements with regard to labour relations. Now, I have not read the verbatim reports containing those statements, but it seems to me that the substance of it was, firstly, that they were going to assess—that is, the railways were going to assess their labour relations and have a look at the whole scheme again. I believe Mr. Gordon also pointed out that his officials, as well as himself, did not see the labour experts or representatives of unions too often in regard to labour pay, and what have you, except in the case of emergency.

Mr. GORDON: I think there is a misunderstanding and I may save time if I comment on it right now. I was replying to a question by Mr. Macdonnell which had to do with a specific type of expert who calls himself an economist giving evidence before a board of inquiry or board of arbitration. We are in constant touch with representatives of the unions, the chairmen of the various groups in the unions, the regular representatives of the men. We are in touch with them every day of the week. There is a close practical working cooperation with them in which the representatives of labour may be making representations on behalf of the men all the time. We also have a very useful labour-management cooperative committee which meets regularly to discuss such things as working conditions or suggestions for improvements in regard to ordinary facilities and amenities of life.

Mr. GEORGE: That is a day to day affair?

Mr. GORDON: Yes, that is a day to day affair. The person I was referring to yesterday was in the nature of some expert witness or somebody who may have been used by the labour unions to present a particular brief which dealt with highly technical analyses of statistics for presentation to the board as reasons for wage increases, and that man, that sort of individual, we rarely see.

Mr. GEORGE: That is the point I am trying to get at. I am not an expert in labour relations, but in view of what you just said, and what you said yesterday, I was wondering if you considered getting the two groups together, that is, labour and management, under an independent head, such as a labour expert from some of the universities, to have a constant study continually under way of labour relations in regard to increases of pay and the cost of running railways, and so on, so that these sudden emergencies do not come upon us.

Mr. GORDON: That is something along the lines we are trying to study and find a way of achieving. As I said yesterday, when we have properly assessed the whole field and sort of analyzed the reasons for what may be called the deterioration in relations between management and labour, then we might be able to arrange for meetings on a more detailed basis in between these crisis periods. We might develop something of a code of ethics—I referred to it yesterday as a set of Queensbury rules, if you like—with a sort of agreement on both sides of the picture that certain methods of procedure would be agreed upon as being correct. We might discuss some of our