

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The remarks that I made will be found in the report of the committee's proceedings. I think my memory is not at fault when I say that the Minister heard the statement of the right honourable gentleman embodying a principle to be drafted into an amendment. I saw the Minister before I returned to the committee this afternoon and he was inclined at that moment to accept the will of the committee as inevitable, but with considerable reluctance—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: But he did accept it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: —in the hope that operation of the Act could be carried on fairly. Now, I have no objection to the Bill being sent over to the House of Commons. But I feel that in loyalty to this Chamber it is my duty to say I have just been informed, after the Minister had examined into the effect of the amendments with some of his colleagues of the Government, which had not met since the committee rose at one o'clock, the Government would not feel like accepting the Bill if sent in its present form to the House of Commons. I am bound to inform the Senate to that effect, so that the whole situation may be made clear at this time. I have stated with all sincerity everything that has taken place, and now the Senate is free to take whatever action it pleases.

If some honourable members, as a result of my statement that the Minister would reluctantly accept the Bill as it came from the Senate, have been precluded from moving further amendments, I desire to say they are now free to propose such further amendments as they may desire.

I have not perhaps emphasized sufficiently the statement which the Minister made to me before I entered this Chamber a moment ago, that instead of accepting this legislation which is now before us he much preferred to leave the Act of 1935 as it is and prepare himself to study the whole situation so as next session to present a Bill which would perhaps cover more ground than does this measure. The Bill as it stands at this stage is so unsatisfactory to him that he would rather defer further action for the present and next session present a Bill which, he hopes, will commend itself to the two Chambers.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: What the honourable leader of the Government said in committee will no doubt be on record, for the statements were taken down. The honourable leader opposite has not denied—and I

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know will not deny, for he is a man of honour—that he reported the Minister had accepted the amendments, though reluctantly.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Under the terms I have just indicated.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, under the terms he had accepted the amendments. On the faith of that the committee acted and reported. I make only one statement: the Minister has not kept faith with the committee.

Each honourable member may take what action he feels right from his own standpoint; but, so far as I am concerned, there will be no motion made in respect of these amendments accepted by the leader of the Government, or in respect of the Bill in any phase at all.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Honourable senators, I do not feel I should be doing my duty as a member of this House if I did not now say something in connection with the Combines Investigation Act. As a layman I have for many years been more or less interested in the Act, and I think I should know something of its operation in years gone by.

In the past few days I have had an opportunity of sitting in and hearing the Banking and Commerce Committee discuss this Bill. To me it is an astounding fact that no layman—and please understand I am not holding the chairman responsible for this—no layman could get an opportunity reasonably and consistently to present his views. While I am sure the chairman and all others would say I could have had an opportunity to present my views, I realize it would have been worse than useless to do so.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? I saw him sitting in the committee a great deal of the time. Can he give a single instance in which a layman indicated a desire to speak and was not given an opportunity to do so?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I saw my honourable friend from Kootenay East (Hon. Mr. King) on two or three occasions struggling for the floor and being interrupted by lawyers. The chairman did give him an opportunity to speak.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Every time he rose he did not get an opportunity to speak immediately, because other members at my end of the room were on their feet before him. As long as I have been chairman of that committee I have tried to give every man an opportunity to speak in turn.