

(6) If the members of the Conciliation Board fail to agree on a nominee for chairman of the Conciliation Board, the Chairman shall appoint as the chairman of that Board a person the Chairman deems fit for the purpose."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is merely a continuation of the theme of heavy-handedness of this government which extends back to when it tried to prevent the hospital services people from receiving the just equalization payment *vis-à-vis* the group services people.

Something that keeps coming up throughout this discussion is how much the government cares about people. Government members refer constantly to how important it is that ships' crews go back to work so that the people at sea are well protected, in spite of all the evidence that they have been. They refer to the veterans and how important it is that they receive the care and attention to which, without doubt, they certainly are entitled.

I would suggest that that is something the government should have thought about when it was negotiating. It is something it should have thought about when it went back and tried to overturn a decision of a court to have these people designated as essential in the first place. The government probably spent as much money trying to have these people designated, after it made a mistake and it became impossible, as it would have if it had just agreed to the settlement which both these groups have proposed in negotiations.

This government cares not a whit for people. This is the same government that is bringing in the general sales tax which is going to hurt us all, including many of the nurses from one of the hospitals which is being so adversely affected because of this government's action, and the veterans who live there. I am glad to see the friends, neighbours and fellow workers of the people who are on strike supporting them.

This is the same government which brought in changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act which is going to devastate all parts of Canada. This is the same government which brought in the free trade deal. The government says that the strike is affecting farmers adversely. This is the government that is threatening the marketing boards of the agricultural communities in this country. This is the government that has accelerated the abandonment of rail lines. This is the government that has

taken oats out of the Wheat Board, which is severely affecting the farmers of Canada.

I think it is atrocious that this government would take particularly vulnerable people, the veterans and the most poorly paid members of the Public Service, and then try to turn the farmers against them by saying that unless this strike is settled, there will be severe adverse conditions affecting farmers. I am sure that most of the farmers in this country do not feel any better about those hospital service workers being as badly paid as they are; that they are not receiving the kind of pay that they ought to be; that they are not going to get the pensions to which they otherwise would have been entitled.

• (1700)

I would suggest that on the basis of what has happened in particular to western Canadian agriculture in the last few years, they can sympathize with a group of people who have been out without a contract for two years. But what that really mean is that those people have been without a raise in pay for three years. That comes awfully close to the same kind of conditions in which the western Canadian farmer finds himself.

On that basis I am sure they can sympathize. To have circumvented the usual process of putting a chairperson in place by the parties involved rather than having one proposed to them is just a continuation of the same Draconian theme.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, this motion refers to Clause 8 of the bill. This clause perhaps more than any other exemplifies the reason that these two groups have been without a contract for over two years. It exemplifies quite clearly the approach that this government has brought to negotiations, the attempt to use its power, every ounce of delaying tactic, and every ounce of devious and cruel means it possibly can not to reach a settlement with these most vulnerable workers of the Canadian government.

These people earn \$16,000, \$17,000, \$18,000, \$19,000 a year. The value of their work as we have seen in the last couple of weeks is millions of dollars a day.

I have been speaking with the professional people who work in the hospital in Montreal. I have been hearing about what it is costing us in that hospital to keep services delivered to our veterans; how we are importing nurses from the west coast, putting them up in hotels;