

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, that reminds me of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), a distinguished lawyer of the city of Toronto. Do you honestly believe that the hon. member for York South does not have a better income than the workers of the city of Toronto? It is all very well to speak against profits but the member for York South derives a profit in the practice of his profession. He sells his services; he does not give them free of charge. It is the same for the member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) connected with an important firm of distinguished lawyers in Toronto.

It is easy for well-to-do people to tell humble folk: Well, old chap, we will work for you.

• (5:50 p.m.)

We will force the socialist system upon you, a system which will enable you to live properly, under which you will have security and freedom. The freedom in the hands of the government.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some of those solutions proposed by the government. A while ago the leader of the New Democratic Party spoke about Sweden where everyone works, where there are no unemployed, where people do not have the right to strike now.

Mr. Douglas: Oh, never.

Mr. Caouette: In Russia also, people do not have the right to strike. We went there last year.

Mr. Lewis: You do not know.

Mr. Caouette: In Sweden, it is the same, Mr. Speaker. Let the member for York South tell me since when there has been no strike in Sweden. The government intervenes immediately and it is the government which settles strikes in Sweden.

The hon. member for York South knows that.

Mr. Lewis: I do not know that, because it is not true.

Mr. Caouette: In Russia, the present government was organized by union leaders in 1917 through strikes such as those we now have. They led the workers to believe that with a labour government, a government ruled by union leaders, they would get security.

Legislation Respecting Railway Matters

Of course. Everybody works in Russia. The man, the woman, the young people, everybody is working. We went there last year. We saw women driving steam rollers on asphalt in the streets. We saw women coming out of coal mines wearing heavy helmets on their heads. We saw that everybody was working. How many hours a week? After 50 years of administration, 46 hours a week. Not 40 hours as they call for in Canada, not 36 hours, but 46.

Mr. Speaker, in Russia the salary of a skilled worker is not \$4 an hour. Not even \$2.37 an hour as the railway workers earn at present. A skilled worker earns \$100 a month. As for an ordinary worker, he gets between \$60 and \$65 per month, and not per week. The standard of living, the cost of living over there is much lower than in Canada. You can get an apartment with three rooms for \$15 a month—the leader of the N.D.P. was with me in Russia at that time—but we would not live in those apartments.

For instance, food prices are about the same as in Canada. Clothing is more expensive than in Canada. Electrical appliances, refrigerators, television sets, etc. cost twice as much as in Canada.

As for the motor car industry—we went to Czechoslovakia—I asked the vice president how much a small car cost in Czechoslovakia, that is the small Skoda car, made in Czechoslovakia where the wages and labour conditions are the same as in Russia. The Skoda car sells in Canada for \$1,700. For \$1,700, we can get a Skoda car. In Czechoslovakia, where the Skoda is made, there were 6,000 employees in the shops we visited, the Skoda sells for \$6,200. As a worker earns \$65 per month you will readily understand, Mr. Speaker, that not too many Skoda cars are seen in Czechoslovakia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Caouette: Bicycles with pedals or even without pedals are seen over there. People walk or use public means of transportation, such as buses which run without a hitch.

In the yard of the Skoda plant, the morning we went there, we saw fewer than 25 cars. I asked the president: How is it that your cars are so expensive here and so cheap in Canada and in America? It is quite easy to understand, he said, we produce for export purposes. And he added: "Here in Czechoslovakia, we do not want people to buy cars, for then we would have to build roads and we have many more important things to do. I