

Government Orders

ment into force. If they have no trust and faith in the policies of government, how well are governmental policies going to be brought to the rest of Canada? Not very well at all.

A final area that I want to talk about is contracting out and laying off those who perform the services. A recent court decision ruled that the government could not legally contract out work and then turn around and lay off those who had been doing that very work. At the very least, it is putting the cart before the horse.

However the government seems determined to go ahead with this bill and ignore the recent decision. It is not sensible. When we look at the approach this bill takes and the history of government policy toward the federal Public Service, it is almost as if the Public Service were in an adversarial position with the government. If that were the case, someone misunderstands the situation.

Those of us on this side of the House do not misunderstand the situation. When I return to Halifax on weekends and during the breaks in the legislative year, I talk to many, many federal public servants. I hear their concerns and their wishes to do a good job and take pride in their work. But their overriding concern is that their jobs are not valued. In the Atlantic provinces they are not paid what they are worth and what other workers doing the same job are considered to be worth. I hear that there is an absolute crisis of confidence of public servants in their government.

While there is a crisis of confidence among public servants toward their own government, the business of Canada cannot be done in a way that benefits all Canadians. We have too many crises in this country right now. This is one that government policy can alleviate. The government should act.

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak against this bill. As usual, I have an hour of material and nine minutes and 30 seconds to condense that material into the appropriate timeframe.

As usual I want to quote from our Prime Minister in his infamous book *Where I Stand*, now appropriately called "Where I Stood". It reads: "Our belief was that the adversary system of labour relations ultimately produces just that, adversaries. It was our intention, and we conveyed repeatedly and emphatically to both our

union leaders and our employees directly to go the extra mile to avoid hurtful confrontations throughout our system that inevitably affect morale, productivity and ultimately profits". Often we agree with what the Prime Minister said at that particular time, but obviously he no longer agrees with what he himself said.

I have an abundance of statements by public servants from across this country. They, better than anyone else, can say exactly how they feel. I wish I had the opportunity to read all of their statements from Newfoundland to British Columbia, but I want to highlight just a few of them before I get into some of the specifics.

Rather than having a lean, efficient machine to move into the 21st century, Canadians may wake up to find that the tune-up done by the mechanics of PS 2000 was really some backyard mechanizing done by Curly, Moe and Larry. A cynical comment you say, but perhaps appropriate.

Claude Parent from Montreal says: "All inspectors will tell you that our work is only a smoke screen now, hiding reality. Now inspection is aimed at companies rather than the Canadian public. American border inspections went from all loads to one out of twenty and finally went up to one out of five because of pressure from technical and professional employees".

Does this have an affect on our daily lives? It has an affect on our economy. May I suggest that foreign manufacturers are continually dumping products into our country and steel is one of those products. We do not have the inspectors to inspect appropriately the shipments of whatever is coming into this country. This has a direct impact on people and a direct impact on the economy of our country.

Karen Fougere from Yellowknife says: "We have UI agents who are asked to work two or three hours of overtime every day and they do not care about your home life or your family".

We in Sault Ste. Marie can appreciate that statement simply because about a year and a half ago our UI people were asked to work overtime every day. They worked all weekend to meet the requirements of 5,000 workers who were registering to apply for UI benefits. They registered these thousands of people twice. The point is that they had no family life whatsoever. I think the downsizing of our work force, along with the downsizing of all the