

has stated that the government should have settled this matter without parliament being called.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Would he suggest to the house how the government could have settled it?

Hon. Mr. Horner: I will suggest that the government could have insisted that the railways carry on; they could have said that parliament would be called but that in the meanwhile the railroads must carry on at any cost. The government could have ordered the railways to keep operating.

Hon. Mr. Grant: They can now.

Hon. Mr. Horner: They could have then, and at the same time they could have carried on negotiations and called parliament. Had I been Prime Minister I would never have allowed any such condition to develop. I would have given labour everything they asked for and would have called parliament, carried out negotiations and obtained confirmation of any agreement. In any case I would have seen that the railroads never stopped operating for one solitary day. I claim that was the duty of the government. I may be wrong but that is what I would have done. I would have seen to it that not one single train missed its service.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Supposing the government issued such an order and the men said "We will still strike"?

Hon. Mr. Horner: The government never issued any such order. They pussy-footed and pussy-footed. They wanted the vote of everybody.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: Sit down.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I will not. I may just as well say what I feel like saying and be done with it. If you are trying to run a country you have got to be either a man, a mouse or a long-tailed rat—if you know what I mean. You ask for authority and then you are afraid to use it. That type of government has no right to exist in any free country, and that is the sort of thing that I am afraid will bring about dictatorship. That is what brought it elsewhere—weakness on the part of the government. What I really want to say is that the government have to run this country and see that the railroads are run. The people of Canada paid hundreds of millions of dollars for these railroads, and nobody knows this better than does the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar). Even the Churchill railroad was paid for by Western Canada land. Now those roads are idle and carloads of

twine and farm machinery are sitting in the sloughs and railroad men are telling the farmers whose wheat is threatened with frost that they cannot unload their machines. Talk about dictatorship!

I want to know how long this condition will continue. Am I not right in declaring that it was the first responsibility of the government, and of the government only, to keep the railroads running and to avoid a strike. If it had to make what it thought an unreasonable agreement it could have called parliament and said, "Here, this is the best we can do. We kept the railroads operating, but now we want the support of parliament." But the government just waited until the present situation developed.

What has it cost this country, and what will be the result so far as the railroad men themselves are concerned? The International Harvester Company sold all the large trucks they had; they thought they were a drug on the market. What will be done with them? People like myself and many others have now taken their first trip in an airplane. What have the railroads and railroad men lost? What will all this trucking activity result in?

Honourable senators, I do not wonder at all at the honourable member from Brockville—

Hon. Mr. Hardy: From Leeds, please.

Hon. Mr. Horner:—from Leeds. I annoyed him greatly; but I thank honourable senators for bearing with me. Coming as I do from the greatest province of Canada and the province most affected by this strike, I felt duty bound to say a few words of criticism of the present condition.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear hear.

Hon. Salter Hayden: Honourable senators, I do not propose to prolong the discussion on the second reading of this bill, but there are one or two things that I feel I should say, particularly after having listened to the most interesting remarks by the honourable senator from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner). I have always felt that he was a very good friend of mine, and I hope that he feels that I have always been a good friend of his; but regardless of all the friendship and personal liking I have for him I must say to him that before the things could be done that he was charging the government with failing to do, we would have had to create a lot more law than now exists in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I do not agree with that.

Hon. Mr. Hayden: I want honourable senators to know, as I am sure they do, that when this strike took place, the men who