

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

the R.C.M.P. band at Expo '67 as a cultural contribution to Canada's centennial year since this permission has been given to the United States army, air force, navy and marine corps for cultural purposes?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have used my offices in this connection. Representations have been made to the American Federation of Musicians in relation to the proposed recording of the R.C.M.P. band. The policy of the musicians union is that persons who are not members of the musicians union are not allowed to record since it would be in violation of the recording agreement between the recording companies and the union. The members of the R.C.M.P. band do not belong to the musicians union, and their participation in a recording would therefore violate the agreement between the record producers and the union.

In answer to the second part of the question, in the case of personnel of the military service bands in the United States, they are members of the union and therefore would be permitted to record.

Later that same day, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister two questions, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address two questions to the Minister of Labour, as a firm supporter of organized labour but also as a proud Canadian. My question arises out of the answer the minister gave with respect to the right of the R.C.M.P. band to record in Canada. My first question is, does the government agree with this decision of the international headquarters of the musicians union? My second question is, if not, would the minister consider discussing this matter with his opposite number in the United States in order to provide appropriate guide lines to meet this type of situation?

● (10:00 p.m.)

Then Mr. Speaker ruled me out of order.

I mention this because I have had a number of complaints about the matter. This is a question of United States influence affecting the celebration of our centennial year. I am very concerned at this attempt to prevent Canadians enjoying recordings of the R.C.M.P. band, particularly during our centennial year.

This type of situation was first brought to my attention some years ago when the band of the 48th Highlanders played for the celebration of the union of the two congresses. When I heard that the colonel of this regiment had to get the permission of brother Petrillo in the United States before he could play in public in Canada, I nearly vomitted. I know a good many other Canadians feel the same way about this sort of thing.

I am a strong supporter of trade unions. However, I am very much opposed to this practice and to this attempt to interfere with the playing and recording of bands in this country which are maintained at the expense

[Mr. Herridge.]

of the people of Canada, through the federal government. Everything possible must be done to protect the musicians union and their rights, but it is going too far when they take this attitude.

Therefore, I suggest that the minister should discuss this further with the musicians union to see whether we cannot make some satisfactory arrangements for the R.C.M.P. band to be recorded at Expo '67 and at other events. We have thousands of Canadians who have never had the opportunity to hear this magnificent band. I know something about bands because I have played in a band, and I was once a band conductor of some five musicians. But many Canadians are denied the opportunity to hear a recording of this band during centennial year. I urge the minister once more to take this matter up with the musicians union and get them to see the Canadian point of view in this respect.

Failing that, if there is still no opportunity to obtain agreement I would suggest that we should form a crown corporation which would provide for the recording of music played by the R.C.M.P. band and army bands in Canada. During these recordings, in order to protect the persons concerned, all those taking part and playing in the recordings should be paid the proper union rates and dues. Therefore I shall look forward to hearing what the minister has to say about this interesting situation.

As I say, I have had many letters about this from persons who are interested in the welfare of organized labour and the work it is undertaking in Canada. Personally I strongly resent any attempt on the part of a United States labour leader to tell Canadians what they are going to do in 1967.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the house is aware, the Minister of Labour is unfortunately away on public business in the west and consequently cannot be here tonight. However, I will say on his behalf that I know he is fully seized of this question. He shares the views expressed by the hon. member that the R.C.M.P. band should be allowed to make its recordings. I think the hon. member can take comfort from the fact that the Minister of Labour will be pursuing the particular topic to which reference has been made.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.07 p.m.