

Motions for Papers

He then continued to establish certain facts and said, as reported on page 1027:

I do not have to tell members of this house what Mr. Justice Norris found. I do not have to tell members of this house that he found that the S.I.U., headed by Mr. Banks, had been guilty of acts of violence, beatings, arson and other illegal actions. It was then that the house was asked to vote—

He was referring to the legislation brought in to establish the board of trustees which is now administering the affairs of certain maritime unions.

The hon. member states further:

Mr. Banks is probably as bad as everything that has been said about him and possibly worse, but he could not have done those things unless he had received the co-operation of very influential and important organizations outside the labour movement.

Further on he said:

I pointed out the connections which he had with other organizations and which he must have certainly had with political figures in the areas in which his union operated.

As found on page 1028 the hon. member for Winnipeg North quoted extensively from a newspaper article which appeared in the *Toronto Star* in which the reporter, Robert Reguly, implied that he had seen certain documents held by the Department of Labour and that in those documents there was reference to certain cheques having been issued to certain candidates in the Montreal area. I was the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour for some time and this charge did not sufficiently concern me to investigate it because I was not interested in what was or was not contained in those papers. I do know there were no cheques issued to me but had there been I should not have felt any embarrassment in that fact being made public.

The implication being made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North is that, because these contributions were made, in some way or another these political figures were able to conspire to allow Mr. Banks to get away with these acts of violence. He is suggesting guilt by inference or guilt by association. If what the hon. member is saying is true, then of course these members would be as guilty as Mr. Banks himself.

● (6:20 p.m.)

I am sure that if Mr. Banks did make any contributions in 1962 they were probably for the favour he received in being brought into this country in the first place. The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) will recall, as will many other members of

this house, that Mr. Banks was brought into this country many years ago by some people in government, business and elsewhere who had the mistaken impression that he could do a "bang-up" job of ridding the Canadian maritime unions of Communists.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Byrne: Yes, indeed.

Mr. Gray: The hon. member referred to those who had mistaken ideas of what Mr. Banks could do. Would he include certain leaders of the labour movement?

Mr. Byrne: Indeed. I am glad the hon. member brought that matter to my attention. At that time it was the Canadian Labour Congress.

An hon. Member: And the C.N.T.U.

Mr. Byrne: Perhaps the C.N.T.U. also. I do not recall that but I am sure it was the industrial organization of the time, namely, the Canadian Labour Congress, which held this mistaken impression.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Byrne: These people found there are worse things in unions than Communists which could cause even more damage. I wonder whether members of the New Democratic Party would mind my taking a few moments to show that all the gangsters, all the wrongdoers in the labour movement, are not in those unions outside the C.L.C. and that indeed there have been extreme acts of violence perpetrated by the Steelworkers close to where we are at this moment, namely, the province of Quebec in the Gaspé peninsula.

Before doing so I wish to establish the fact—it is a known fact but should be put on the record—that the Steelworkers Union, to which I shall refer later, makes contributions to the New Democratic Party and in return, of course, demands that members of the New Democratic Party perform as they suggest. I am not—

Mr. Herridge: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Byrne:—suggesting that all those hon. members comply with their demands, but the union asks that certain things be done. The hon. member for Kootenay West is getting