

Government Orders

not agree with him. It was interesting to note there were over 10,000 people on the Hill yesterday and the reason for that was because they feel very strongly that they have been wronged and they are looking to the government to right that wrong.

I think it should stop trying to divide and conquer the Canadian people and start working with them to better this country for all of us.

• (1520)

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my friend and my colleague a question with respect to the excellent address he just delivered to the House. I was particularly impressed with what he had to say inasmuch as he comes from a perspective of being in the trade union movement all his life and therefore has an understanding of the mechanics and the dynamics that are involved in this type of situation.

My colleague and I and many other people in the House fail to realize sometimes that we come from the majority of small communities within this country and at the end of this—and it will end soon we are told—these people in these small communities who are neighbours and live together must then get along in this terrible spirit of animosity that has been created by the government of the day. I would like this member to express what he anticipates will happen with all of the small communities in this country that are served so well and ably by the Public Service of our country.

Mr. Nault: Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for his kind words and I would say very quickly that we are going to see some nasty repercussions to the kind of action being taken by the government.

The government has to understand that these things are not forgotten the day that legislation is passed and Royal assent given. It lingers on for years and years and years. A perfect example of that is Canada Post and what has happened with the labour-management relations there.

You cannot force people to be something they do not agree with. You have to convince them of the necessity to do something and what we are going to see in small-town Canada, and there is a lot of civil servants

there, is a feeling of being very left out in the process and services will be hindered because of it.

I think we all have to understand and expect to see that because of what the government is doing.

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Madam Speaker, Canada's largest Public Service union, PSAC, is on strike and innocent citizens are suffering because of it. Thousands of Canadians, whether farmers paralysed by halted grain shipments, or commuters held up by airline delays, have been adversely affected by this unnecessary and regrettable dispute. Surely this strike has run its course.

Public servants who wish to work are fed up with the daily picket-line harassment. Farmers are fed up with feeling the grip of this union's stranglehold on their livelihood. Pensioners are fed up with government telephones left unanswered. Air traffic controllers are fed up with ridiculous airport barricades and the government is fed up with this strike as well.

I agree with some of my constituents who met with me on Saturday and said: "Enough is enough". Now is the time to send these strikers back to work.

Why is the PSAC on strike? Assuming that the numerous picket sign captions are a reflection of their carriers, the primary issue is the government's unpopular wage formula of zero, three and three. That is fair enough.

I, too, am not thrilled about my 1992 wage being frozen at zero either. I, like many Canadians, in the past always expected wage increases on a yearly basis. However, for the sake of our children, it is time to rethink this expectation. Past government cycles of spending and taxing, and taxing and spending, have produced today's overwhelming \$400 billion debt, a growing debt that will be passed on to tomorrow's generations if not controlled today.

In the February 1991 budget the Minister of Finance outlined the government's plan for economic recovery. The plan which detailed measures and has successfully led the country out of its recession structured a design for renewed prosperity and competitiveness.

But no one promised when we introduced that budget back in February that it would be easy. Tough decisions had to be made. Habits of the past, which are always difficult to break, were cast aside and the government's