

Government Orders

the province of Nova Scotia and the province of Manitoba.

Of course, Mr. Bean fails to acknowledge that four non-PSAC unions have negotiated settlements with the Government of Canada under the guidelines that I mentioned earlier on.

So Mr. Bean is the man who has perpetrated this. He is the man who has almost demanded that his membership go on strike. I cannot, for a minute, believe that *The Ottawa Sun* is on the side of the government, but I will read this one because I think it has been very, very fair in this, Madam Speaker. It states: "From our corner there was absolutely no reason for Mr. Bean to walk away from the negotiation table, and certainly no reason for him then to run to the media and blame Treasury Board for breaking off the process."

They have demanded that this thing go public and they have taken it public, but I do not think the Canadian public are in a position to give them much sympathy because they understand the restraint that we are facing, all Canadians from coast to coast, whether you are speaking in Newfoundland or British Columbia. All governments are operating under extreme fiscal restraint, extreme fiscal pressure and Mr. Bean has no regard for that at all. He simply wants to take them through this whole ugly process.

One of the journalist writing in *The Ottawa Sun* mentioned: "This is not a pretty sight when normally civilized civil servants begin acting like postal workers". They go on to say: "But this is what happens when a supposedly intelligent union like the Public Service Alliance of Canada allows its leadership to inbreed its principles with rogues". It goes on to say: "When PSAC President Daryl Bean said he was not above civil disobedience he was stealing a page straight from the strike training manual of Jean-Claude Parrot, the man who turned the Canadian Union of Postal Workers into a pack of Pavlovian wolves".

That pretty well sums it up, Madam Speaker. That is his intent, to stir them up, agitate them, but with no regard at all for the Canadian public.

The government recognizes the importance of the Public Service and has high regard for its Public Service employees. It is very, very sad when an individual like Mr. Bean can bring about a strike like this that could very well cripple the Canadian economy just at a time

when we are on the road to recovery and we cannot afford a strike of this nature.

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of concern that I rise tonight in this House to speak on Bill C-29.

This is a bill that will see some 160,000 members, including the lowest paid of Public Service employees such as clerks, ships' crews, employment centre workers, hospital service workers, who will be legislated back to work with no possibility of conciliation, mediation or arbitration as we are getting very, very close to ten o'clock.

This bill will create a precedent about the rights of working people in this country, including the government's employees, to free collective bargaining.

The government's absolute refusal since February to negotiate until the union would accept a wage control package even before negotiations even began could only result in the situation that is before us today.

My leader put it so well in the House when he said: "This government does not want to solve the problem. It tries on confrontation all the time. It is not the problem of looking at the deficit figure that is the preoccupation of this government today, it does not look at the figure for the deficit at all, it looks at the Gallup poll deficit where they are dead last".

I honestly believe that this government took another chance and rolled the dice. It probably thought the dice were loaded in their favour. Lo and behold, once again the government was wrong.

The government was certain that the people of Canada would support it in giving it to the Public Service. Unfortunately for the government, the Canadian public became quickly aware of what it was doing to the Public Service. It was stifling those who worked to offer federal government services to the same Canadian public.

Canadians are now realizing that the government was and is attacking the lower level classifications in the Public Service. The day before the former Minister of Finance tabled his budget on February 26, the Tory government gave an increase of 4.5 per cent to the