

Supply—Labour

saying that these workers lived in air-conditioned buildings and had fine working conditions. On the other hand, Ray Haynes, secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labour, said that the mayor spent 35 minutes with the workers and the rest of the week end with the growers and Governor Ronald Reagan.

There were two sides to this story because in the meantime the mayors of New York and Detroit boycotted the grapes and publicly urged that this be done by people generally. But the matter kept hanging fire and hanging fire. Be that as it may, the grape workers kept on organizing here and apparently nothing definitive came of it. In the *Globe and Mail* of October 18 there appeared an article dealing with the boycott in Toronto. It seems that some stores in Toronto had been moved to restrain from selling California grapes. Then the matter was brought to the attention of the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act, who said that if there were any agreement among the stores to boycott non-union grapes, he would have to launch an inquiry into the matter. He also said that if there was found to be a combination in restraint of trade, he would have to prosecute. One of the chains in Ontario expressed sympathy with the grape workers but said that because of the attitude of the combines branch the chains could not do anything about it.

In view of these conflicting stories quite a number of us—I am one of them—have had to forgo buying any grapes at all this fall, although I like them very much. We are uncertain about the rights and wrongs of these stories, and I therefore appeal to the minister to clear up this matter. I do not think Canada should be left in an ambiguous position in this regard. If the stories of the grape workers are correct, surely we should find ways and means of confining ourselves to Canadian grapes. We do not want to be a dumping ground for products sent here as a result of unfair labour practices in the United States.

If on the other hand the grape workers of California are receiving just treatment, we should know about it. I suggest that the Minister of Labour contact his opposite number in the United States, Secretary of Labour Willard Wirtz, and find out the rights and wrongs of this question. He should find out why the mayors of some cities are boycotting these grapes and the mayors of other cities are not. Why are we having this fuss about grapes in Canada? I suggest that perhaps the

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

I.L.O. could be consulted. In any event, Mr. Chairman, I ask the minister to clear the air in this regard and let us know where we stand. I for one would very much like to know whether he knows something about this question and, if not, whether he will find out.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister of Labour opened this debate on his estimates he made a most eloquent statement of his philosophy of labour-management relations, of his ideas of what the federal Department of Labour under his leadership should be doing and, I am confident, will be doing. In this statement he drew attention to one of the central issues, one of the central questions in the field of labour-management relations today when he said that "if increased productivity depends on our willingness to accept technological change, we must be prepared to face squarely the disruptive forces that technological change creates." If technological change benefits the entire community, and generally it does, then the principle burden of adjusting to such change cannot and should not be shouldered mainly by the workers concerned. This burden must be shared by the company carrying out the change; it must be shared by the entire community, by the entire country.

There are still too many instances of managements which use the highest degree of planning and organization for every phase of technological change except the phase which concerns one of the most vital portions of the labour-management equation, namely the workers involved. They use these high skills of planning and organization to determine trends in markets, changes in products required and new machinery needed to make these products; but all too often they do not use even a small fraction of this management skill in determining the effects on their workers and what should be done to assist them to adjust to the changes to be carried out.

● (9:10 p.m.)

In other words, plans are made for almost everything except the fair and reasonable use of manpower, of the workers concerned. Even though, in the long run, the new engine plant announced by the Ford Motor Company for its Windsor operations will bring benefits to the workers concerned and to the community, certainly in the short run what has been happening there, appears to be an example of the lack of attention and the lack of planning with respect to the use of manpower and to