

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. MacKenzie: With leave of the Senate, I move that the bill be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, it is now five o'clock and debate has started in the other place on the bill which we expect to receive later. Although I cannot say what progress is being made there, I understand that there are not to be many speeches. There is, however, the possibility that members there may not forego private members' hour; it is difficult therefore at this stage to make an accurate forecast.

I think that our best course would be to adjourn now to reassemble at the call of the bell at approximately eight o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Is the honourable leader anticipating Royal Assent tonight?

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Let me say I am certainly hopeful. When we reassemble at eight o'clock I hope to be able to give some further information. As I understand the situation, the bill being discussed in the other place is the only outstanding piece of legislation which we may expect.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 11.10 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ST. LAWRENCE PORTS WORKING
CONDITIONS BILL

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-215, respecting certain conditions of employment of dock workers at the Ports of Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec.

Bill read first time.

SECOND READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. John J. Connolly, with leave of the Senate, moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-215, which enacts the St. Lawrence Ports Working Conditions Act, deals with certain disputes and attempts to bring them to finality.

The first party to the disputes is the International Longshoremen's Association. This is composed of three locals in Montreal, two in Quebec, and one in Trois-Rivières. It involves some 4,500 longshoremen and also certain related trades. The second party to the proceedings is the Shipping Federation of Canada. This involves the wharf operators in these ports, the stevedoring companies in these ports and the shipowners and their agents who are located in these various localities.

Perhaps I should take a few moments to review some of the proceedings that led to the legislation which is before us at this moment.

The previous agreement between the parties expired on December 31, 1965. Notice of revision was served by the union upon the Shipping Federation on October 18, 1965, and they began their talks leading to a new agreement. These negotiations broke down, and on April 4, 1965, a conciliation officer was appointed by the Department of Labour. He worked for the purpose of trying to get the parties to come to an agreement. On April 15, after finding that he could not succeed, he recommended the appointment of a conciliation board. Each of the parties chose their representatives and, finally, on May 10 this year Mr. Justice Prevost was chosen to be the chairman of that board. On May 17 that board reported to the minister that there could be no settlement as a result of their deliberations and activity. On May 18 a general strike started in the three ports.

I should tell you too that on that same day, May 18, Judge René Lippé was appointed mediator under section 56 of the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act for the purpose of trying further to get these parties to reach an agreement. I need not remind honourable senators that Judge Lippé has had a long and fruitful career in dealing with industrial disputes, and his sense of fairness and responsibility are of the highest order. He is a magistrate in Montreal and a trustee of the Maritime Transportation Unions there.

Finally, on June 14, after a great deal of work on the part of many people, terms of settlement were reached. Honourable senators will recall that I filed and incorporated in the