

Legislation Respecting Railway Matters

What is being done? Labour leaders lay the blame on those who are in the upper wage brackets. They attack those who make profits. Mr. Speaker, federal members of parliament here receive \$18,000 per year, expenses included, \$18,000 a year. Not one labour leader—and I dare them to deny this earns less than twice that amount. The Minister of Manpower (Mr. Marchand) knows that labour leaders are now better paid than any federal member of parliament.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am being asked a question. I may say that the statement just uttered by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) is untrue and as a former president of the C.N.T.U. I have never been paid twice the indemnity of a member of parliament.

Mr. Caouette: It was not an indemnity, Mr. Speaker, it was expenses and such expenses were substantially higher than salaries.

I will give him two examples: In the United Steelworkers of American, two small local leaders in our own area, one in Val d'Or and one in Rouyn—and the Minister of Manpower (Mr. Marchand) former president of the C.N.T.U. knew them very well, these chaps from the Abitibi and Rouyn-Noranda region—two local labour leaders, now established in Montreal, at Laval des Rapides, in \$45,000 homes. These people are very well paid; they have two cars at their door. Now, I have nothing against people who are well paid and who have two cars at their front door—His and Hers—but I do have a grudge, for instance, against labour leaders who constantly attack private enterprise and call the parties concerned communists or bad capitalists. Small businessmen who operate a store on the street corner are branded as capitalists and small industrials do not even earn in a year what those people make in six months.

That is sheer discrimination and class warfare on the part of some labour leaders in Canada and in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I will give no names but I can bring the Minister of Manpower with me to Laval des Rapides and show him the two houses I have just spoken about.

Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking through my hat and the minister knows that everything is not as it should be. It is so true that when he was president of the C.N.T.U., the minister spoke in the same vein as Marcel Pépín, the present president, does now. Mr.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Pépín is not happy with Bill No. C-230 whereas the minister who, as president of the C.N.T.U. was trying to ingratiate the workers and wanted politics to be subdued and become the handmaiden of labour, must now, because of cabinet solidarity, accept to recommend a piece of legislation which offers a 6 per cent increase to the nation's railway workers. The minister is aware of that; it is exactly the contrary of what he advocated throughout the province for 25 years. That is what the minister does here today.

Mr. Marchand: I wonder if that is true.

Mr. Caouette: The minister knows it too. He may well look up to see if he has any opposition but it is true.

Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to direct attention to the fact that there should be no interruption or comment of any kind from people in the galleries if they want to stay in the galleries.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I should like you to repeat in French what you have just said, because the person concerned speaks French very well.

Mr. Speaker: I ask for the co-operation of hon. members to ensure if possible that there is no comment or interruption from the people in the galleries.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, some labour leaders spend their time criticizing salaries and profits and in this house, we hear members of the New Democratic Party speak against profits and high salaries but, Mr. Speaker, profits contribute to foster ambition, to promote private enterprise. Without any initiative, there is no progress. When individual initiative is discouraged, instead of going forward, we go backwards. When I hear members of the N.D.P. talk about profits and high salaries, it reminds me of the member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) who does not look like a poor man, and of the member for York South (Mr. Lewis), a prominent lawyer—

[English]

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member is quoting a myth.