

Labour Relations

3. In addition to a press release, copies of the proposed amendments were distributed to all industry associations affected for the information of their members. In accordance with the requirement of the Statute, a period of 60 days has been provided from the date of publication of the draft (April 26, 1975) for submissions by any interested parties prior to formal promulgation of the amendments.

4. See answer to number 3.

5. See answer to number 3.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO RESOLVE LABOUR PROBLEMS

Mr. Charles-Eugène Dionne (Kamouraska) moved:

That this House deplores the fact that the government has neglected to make legislative changes to remedy present problems at all levels of labour activity.

This neglect has resulted in:

- (1) a climate of instability and dissatisfaction for workers and the working class in general;
- (2) the toleration of a system which allows certain union figures to wield powers exceeding their responsibilities;
- (3) the toleration of illegal strikes and work stoppages initiated on any pretext which paralyze or even destroy the economy and the social progress of vast fields of activity;
- (4) a continued opposition between employees and employers instead of the development of mutual aid policies.

To remedy this situation, Parliament should:

- (1) pass measures granting fiscal advantages to employees and employers to restore their motivation;
- (2) effect stimulating measures to increase work attractiveness and professional satisfaction;
- (3) urge corporations to set up employee shareholding and profit sharing programs;
- (4) create labour tribunals made up of experts in employer-employee relations and empowered to set adequate working conditions for restoring mutual understanding and preventing conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at this motion, we see clearly that we have realized the great difficulties that exist in the employer-employee relations field and that we intend to make suggestions which seem practical to us to improve the impossible situation in which the workers find themselves these days.

For a few years, all observers of the employer-employee relations scene have been able to find out that the great many strikes of every kind, justified or unjustified, establishes clearly that the labour legislation is not suitable for present economic conditions. Today's negotiating mechanisms as they are used are outdated. They talk about strike first, then negotiations. You will probably remember the time when workers who disagreed with their employers negotiated seriously and, as last resort, they thought of going on strike. Today it is the other way around. It is recognized that many demands are sometimes justifiable, but what it is inadmissible it is that unwarranted irresponsibility they show when they call illegal

[Mr. Reid.]

strikes if union leaders feel it is necessary, and the only purpose is to put pressure on employers.

In almost all issues of the *Labour Gazette*, we can read articles that prove the concern that exists in employer-employee relations, Vol. 74, No. 10, October 1974, page 534: Going beyond collective bargaining, by Marcel Pépin, President of the CNTU, an article in which the author admits that union action is political; Vol. 74, No. 12, December 1974, page 666: The collective bargaining crisis; Vol. 75, No. 2, February 1975, page 77: In search of alternatives; Vol. 75, No. 3, March 1975, page 139: New outlook on trade unionism.

In most of these articles, present day difficulties are outlined in the field of relationships between workers and employers. Let me quote two short citations from Mr. Jean Pellerin's article on page 144:

Due to the freedoms and the rights the system recognizes, unions were born and have been in a position to grow freely. If they propose to use these same rights and freedoms to destroy the system that has enabled them to become what they are, they will provoke, not its fall but its hardening.

Already, a trend toward interventionism can be noted. The government must continually involve itself in unions' affairs, and that, at the express request of the latter. It is abnormal.

And yet, we all know that management and workers are somewhat like Siamese brothers: one cannot live without the other. They must be partners in production rather than rivals competing for the profits of the business.

Upon analyzing the wage-price structure, we perceive discover the cycle according to which raw materials coming from the fields, the forests, the ground, the sea or the sky are refined, processed, manufactured, then shipped to the retailer for distribution to the consumer. In their natural state, raw materials cost little or nothing and no price tag can at first be attached to any element such as cost ore from the earth, loom soil, forest trees, fish or sea minerals, the air we breathe. The conquest of raw materials, their processing into consumer products, the subsequent stages of transportation, processing and distribution determine the final price the potential purchaser and consumer must pay.

● (1530)

This listing of the various steps in the processing of commodities leads me to point out an interesting aspect of the Social Credit doctrine of economic distribution based on the value of the collective heritage resulting from the abundant natural resources which Providence so generously heaped upon Canada. Unfortunately, our petty politicians happy in their submission to a corrupted and corrupting financial system keep floundering about in debts, taxes of all kinds, strikes, crime, unemployment, inflation and pollution problems.

It is quite unusual that in a country such as ours there are workers who will have toiled and sweated for years to leave nothing to their sons and daughters but a heritage of debts, misery and hardship. That is why there has to be a reform of the present financial system which no longer meets today's needs.

The contradictions generated by the present system do not make it easy to propose solutions to the numerous problems of the workers. If finance were the faithful