

*Government Orders*

This government will of course impose this legislation eventually. We know that. It will use closure. It always uses closure. I remember when this House was respected a bit by the government. I remember the days when closure was used once or twice every two years. It is every week that it uses closure, or every two weeks in this House. It is always "my way or no way".

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada are waiting. They want to tell this government that there should be justice in our land. They want the people on the other side to understand that it is not by confrontation that we will win. It is not because it has a majority.

Of course, it got a majority in 1988. It was on one issue. It managed to get a majority because of the so-called debate on free trade. There were other preoccupations, and now it uses that to ram through its right wing agenda. It wants to make sure that the "fats" are getting bigger in Canada. It does not care about the people.

There are a lot of people who are suffering in Canada today. They do not have a cent, and the government has no compassion for them. The people of this country are feeling terrible.

Again, we will have a piece of legislation. The bully attitude, it will win. It will use closure. The workers will go back to work through legislation. These hundreds of thousands of people are serving the people very well.

I read in a column in *The Gazette* the other day about a person in Montreal who said: "I lost my passport and I had to leave the same day. It was a terrible complication, and I was received by two public servants at the Guy Favreau Place in Montreal. They treated me very well." They had compassion. They made sure that he would not have complications because of this loss of a passport.

I have dealt with the Public Service during my long career. Most of them, 99 per cent of them, have one ambition in life: to do a good job and earn their living properly. This union has never gone on strike, ever. It has always managed to settle the claims.

There were some strikes here and there once in a while, but there was a way to handle that. There was a way. There was a conciliation board report. It does not want anybody to mediate the situation.

In the past when we were confronted with that, we were not saying: "We impose a settlement on our own." We always had a mediator or a conciliator telling us what we should do. If it was rejected by the unions, we would impose what had been recommended to us and to them.

Now, the government started the negotiations by telling them: "We want to talk, but the base is zero."

**An hon. member:** Great talk.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Great talk. And zero remains zero.

That is why we are having this problem. We will vote against this bill because this bill is wrong. This government had a choice. It could have followed the law of this land. The Public Service Staff Relations Board ruled yesterday to bargain in good faith, not to start the first day imposing zero.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Next week this government will ask these workers to follow the law of the land. We will be asking them to follow the law of the land because there is no other society where people do not follow the law of the land. But it will be difficult for some of them. They will see the Public Service Staff Relations Board report and they will say: "The Government of Canada has not followed the law of the land and we are obliged to follow the law of the land".

Mr. Speaker, we have no choice. We have to vote against this bill.

[Translation]

This legislation is not necessary, there is no need for it. If the minister and the government had really wanted a settlement, they would have acted in good faith and would have negotiated. They would have considered the solution adopted by New Brunswick, for example, which gives to the weak members of the Public Service at least a little so they can face the difficult situation caused by this government, because inflation is now 6 per cent and half this rate is due to the reckless tax increases of this government.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, we must vote against this bill. We must vote against this bill because these people would not have been on strike last week, would not be on strike today and tomorrow. If only the government had done something very easy which it had the power to do, that is to name a mediator mandated to review everything, including wages. And, if the mediator had con-