

ever on the part of the employer. One dispute resolution method is final binding arbitration; the other is known as the conciliation-strike method.

● (2225)

The Public Service Staff Relations Act imposes an additional requirement on groups which choose this latter strike method. The additional requirement is that members of the group who perform duties necessary in the interests of the safety and security of the public do not have the right to strike. However, to date, and I would point this out very strongly to the hon. member opposite, there has been no contention that the inside workers of the Post Office have duties which are necessary in the interest of the safety and security of the public. Specifically, then, the inside workers of the Post Office are a group that the Public Service Staff Relations Act envisaged as having the right to bargain collectively and engage in strike action if necessary to resolve a dispute with their employer.

I should also like to take this opportunity to correct a misbelief held by some that Treasury Board or the government selects the chairman of the conciliation board. The truth is that unless the parties, in this case Treasury Board and CUPW, agree on a chairman, he or she is appointed by the chairman of the Public Service Staff Relations Board.

Adjournment Debate

It should also be made clear that while the recommendations of a conciliation board chairman can be useful in assisting the parties to settle their differences, they are in no way binding on either party. For example, it is not unknown for one party or the other to reject a conciliation board report even, when one's own nominee has concurred with the recommendation.

In the present dispute, we have CUPW insisting that the employer accept without reservation the recommendations of the conciliation board chairman as a prerequisite to resuming negotiations to obtain further concessions which the chairman has not recommended. Mr. Speaker, the parties themselves must resolve this dispute. It may be that goal can be facilitated by the presence of a mediator, but it will not be facilitated by continuing the imminent possibility of back to work legislation. The sooner both parties realize it is their responsibility to achieve a settlement, the sooner a settlement will be achieved.

This is not to say that given a reasonable time to achieve this objective, the government would not act decisively to end the dispute if the continuation of the strike began to create a severe emergency. Everything that can be done will be done, Mr. Speaker, but the emphasis must be on the parties achieving a voluntary settlement.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m.

At 10.27 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.