

Labour Conditions

sure he did not convince me that compulsory arbitration was the correct or the right thing to do.

There is an old saying that when you have a weak case you have to shout. The minister was so loud that it was difficult to hear the translator, through the system.

Mr. Marchand: Complain about the translator and not about me.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Could the hon. minister repeat that? I did not hear him.

Mr. Marchand: The hon. member should complain about the translator, and not about me.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): What a brilliant statement. That was great—great.

Mr. Sharp: It is like your brilliant speech.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): We have an interjection from this great Minister of Finance. What is your stand in this? Are you against labour? I would think you are.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly address the Chair.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to. But when there are objections from across the floor, as the volatile former minister of finance used to say: "When I am provoked, I must reply".

We have these great exponents of labour with us.

An hon. Member: Don't be deterred by rabbits.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): No. We have these Bay street boys, these potential leaders of parties. They will be great leaders for the labour movement. The labour movement will remember them.

At the companies' request, as I have already said, the minister removed this matter from the area of collective bargaining and made it a matter of compulsion. Does this represent collective bargaining, as it is understood by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration? Is this his type of collective bargaining? Of course, the minister goes on to say that it all depends whether this sort of thing is what you want. It has been made clear in everything that has been said both

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

during and after the negotiations, that the union was unalterably opposed to having an imposed settlement on this issue.

Mr. Douglas: They should send it to the committee, to find out.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): It should be sent to the committee. We would have an opportunity to find out what the union felt about this. As matters stand at the moment, we have the interpretation by the Minister of Labour of what others said, and what was to be thought of their statements at these gatherings. As the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) said, in long, drawn-out meetings of this nature there is bound to be confusion and it is difficult to remember who said what, and who did not say something.

I therefore suggest to the minister, as others have, that the whole situation should be brought to the committee. Let us delve into it. Statements have been made by Mr. Jodoin and by Mr. Cutler. After the minister revealed the nature of this legislation, what do Messrs. Cutler and Jodoin say? They are uniformly opposed.

This afternoon the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration said that the Leader of the Opposition suggested a kind of compulsory arbitration to settle a rail strike in 1950. That is not correct. The Leader of the Opposition simply pointed out that the government had acted in a certain way. The minister, in his own words said that this was the worst kind of interference on that occasion. May I point out that the matter referred to was undertaken by a Liberal government under former prime minister St. Laurent. Certainly the matter was not similar to the one we are discussing, because at least labour on that occasion knew what it was getting.

I was deeply shocked by the stand taken by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, having for many years watched his activities in his former position, and having felt that there was much good in his stands on many, many occasions. I admire the work he did on behalf of labour. How can he tell Mr. Jodoin, Mr. Cutler, or the labour movement in this country: This is the best thing for you, because I say it is the best thing for you. That is what it amounts to.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we vote down this legislation. It is mean; it is small, it does not represent our way of life, it does not represent the Canadian way of life. We do not like compulsory arbitration. Certainly