

without the trade union movement being totally destroyed or forced into compulsory arbitration, he does not know what he is talking about.

● (1750)

The trade union movement has been condemned for many years by the news media, by every chamber of commerce and by every anti-labour person in this country. We admit that in the labour movement we do not have a very good public image, and that is to be expected. The news media itself must negotiate with unions. They do not like unions and they do their damndest to paint as black a picture of us as they possibly can. The only way trade union leaders could become nice people in this country would be if they abdicated their responsibility and sat down quietly with employers and accepted anything they offered. You must bear in mind that if they did that, they might get nice press coverage but at the next election of the local, the region or the international they would be put out of office and out of a job because the workers would not stand for that kind of trade union leadership. I would not blame them and would suggest that the leaders be removed.

Let me touch upon a couple of things the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River said about unions. He said that unions were foreign-controlled. There are many unions in this country that are Canadian, and there are some in respect of which the members opted to affiliate with international unions. Had it not been for the international unions coming into this country many years ago to help organize by providing experienced organizers and by putting up the money to fight these monstrous employers, with all the money and brains they had at their disposal, we would not have in Canada the trade union movement we have today.

The hon. member said that only the wealthy industries were unionized. I suggest that he go to Winnipeg and Montreal and look at the clothing industry, where employees are organized and are paying dues to a union. They are among the most poorly paid employees in the country. He should also study the canning industry in the province of British Columbia, another of the poorer paying industries, where the Union of Fishermen and Allied Workers has worked for many years to organize and improve the lot of the workers.

The hon. member also spoke about inflation. It took us years to convince members on the other side of this House that wages were not responsible for the inflationary spiral, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) admitted that the other day. We are still dragging behind, with the Tory party using the same stupid arguments that we have heard for years. The Economic Council of Canada shot that argument down in flames. Even the public relations man from the University of British Columbia hired by a previous government to try to convince the people of Canada that wages were responsible for inflation refuted that suggestion. He admitted that wages are not the cause of inflation in Canada.

The hon. member spoke about the power of the unions. I suppose he does not know that less than one-third of the workers in Canada belong to a union; that two-thirds are still at the mercy of the beneficent employers he was

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talking about, and have no protection. The only way they receive any assistance in the way of wage increases is after a legitimate union has negotiated, and sometimes has gone out on strike, with the workers suffering before getting an increase. Then the employers of non-organized employees grant a relative wage increase.

The hon. member also spoke about union executives running the lives of their members. Let me tell him, through you, Mr. Speaker, that every time there is a strike in Canada there is a secret ballot conducted and every member of the union votes whether he wants to go on strike or not. I am sure they must have been anti-union employees the hon. member spoke about when he referred to those who have constantly voted against strike action in order to leave the union in a precarious position. By law in this country, every time there is a strike there must be a secret ballot and the rank and file members of the union decide whether to go on strike. The leaders cannot pull them out on strike, as was suggested by the hon. member.

I have spoken about democracy because the hon. member referred to it. Let me say that in my honest opinion the most democratic organization I have ever belonged to is the trade union movement. This bill is only an attempt to drive us back to the eighteenth century. The hon. member also referred to union shops, closed shops and the Rand formula. These conditions took a long time to come into being in this country. They were developed step by step with, first, the open shop, then the Rand formula and then the union shop, in some instances a closed shop. These conditions are absolutely necessary in this country because of the situation we face respecting employers in North America as opposed to those in European countries. Employers in Canada and the United States still feel that the trade union movement is like a plague of locusts, and if they keep on fighting them they eventually might go away. They continually try to weaken the unions, and with the assistance of people like the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River they just might be able to do that, particularly if this kind of legislation is ever allowed to pass.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is just about up. I would urge reasonable and sensible men in a free, democratic country to allow free, democratic workers to make their own decisions. I thought the hon. member was quoting me when he spoke about paying taxes, because I have used that argument many times. If 90 per cent of the workers in a plant want to join a union, why should the other 10 per cent sit on their butts and inherit all the benefits negotiated by the representatives elected by 90 per cent of their members? No one in his right mind, as far as I am concerned, can argue against the union shop or the Rand formula.

We have a strike on right now because a U.S. company threatens to close its doors and move its operation back to the United States because in the United States the employees have no union security. The company is hoping to smash the union. This should never be allowed to happen in Canada.

I see that you are about to rise, Mr. Speaker, so I will conclude my remarks immediately. Let me just say, in closing, that I have been a member of the trade union movement for 30 years and a trade union leader for 25 of