

Labour Conditions—C.P.R. Strike

point—what you have to consider is not just the urgency of a matter but the urgency of debate. All of us recognize the urgency of the matter.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I submit that it is out of order for either the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) or the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to discuss the question of urgency until you yourself have given your ruling on that point. The standing order reads:

He then hands a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed to Mr. Speaker, who, if he thinks it in order, and of urgent public importance, reads it out and asks whether the member has the leave of the house. If objection is taken, Mr. Speaker requests those members who support the motion to rise in their places . . .

I submit no discussion can take place and no objection can be taken until after Your Honour has decided whether it is in order and of urgent public importance, and that a discussion between the mover of the motion and the Prime Minister or any member of the government is out of order until that ruling is made, at which time all members may have the right to speak on the matter if they so desire.

Mr. Speaker: Technically the hon. member is quite correct, but if I were to go further I could say that we are still under the order "motions" and I have not yet called orders of the day. At that time, just before proceeding with the question period, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar could have risen and presented his motion. However, I did not want to be technical about the matter and I listened to the Prime Minister and I was prepared to listen to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre because I find I need some help.

Mr. Knowles: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My purpose is to direct myself to the one point, namely, whether there is urgency of debate. The Prime Minister suggests that this matter can be discussed during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne because the matter is mentioned in the speech from the throne. I would point out to you, sir, that under the new rules the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne can continue, and probably will continue, until Tuesday, January 22. That is another 13 days.

If the government is going to wait another 13 days to collect the opinions of the members of the house as expressed hit and miss in the debate on the address, that is hardly coming to grips with the issue. Because of the urgency of the issue itself, I suggest that there is urgency of debate and that it is urgent for

[Mr. Knowles.]

the government to wait not 13 days to collect the opinions of the members of the house but it is urgent for the government to have today the opinions of members in all parties as to what should be done in connection with this matter.

My leader has laid before the house not only the matter itself but a specific, concrete proposal to which members can address themselves. I suggest that in view of what the present situation is doing to the economy of the country and in view of the rights of the men involved there is urgency of debate and urgency of having this matter discussed by parliament today rather than having it drag out for another 13 days.

Mr. Speaker: In the first place the Minister of Labour, in tabling a certain document, has made a suggestion that one document containing correspondence be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Is there unanimous consent to that effect? Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

(For text of document referred to, see appendix, pages 51-56.)

Mr. Speaker: Is there any other business to be transacted under the heading of motions? If not, we are at the stage just before orders of the day are called.

Mr. Coldwell: I regret that I did not realize that you, Mr. Speaker, were about to call orders of the day. I was waiting for the appropriate place.

Mr. Speaker: We are now at the appropriate place. Mr. Coldwell has moved for leave to introduce a motion adjourning the house under standing order 26, and the purpose of it is to discuss a matter which is well defined and no doubt of urgent public importance. I listened to the remarks made by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and also to those made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I also looked at standing order 38 which defines the order in which the debate on the address in reply is to be taken. If this motion were moved, let us say, tomorrow and if this evening the acting leader of the house announced, as is provided for in standing order 38, that we were not to proceed with the debate on the address in reply tomorrow but to skip a day or two, I would be inclined to allow the motion. The session opened yesterday. In the speech from the throne there is reference to this matter which is of extreme importance; and today, traditionally, after the mover and the seconder of the address have made their speeches, it is leaders' day. In view of the importance of the question I would greatly doubt that the leaders in their