

would be no strike. Some of the strikers who helped me thresh some rye said that they never expected or wanted a strike; their salaries were sufficient for their needs.

Your Honour has always been very kind to me, and I propose to ask that a rule be enforced in this house during this and future sessions. The rule I have in mind is perhaps more important than any other in the book. I refer to the reading of speeches.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I may make many mistakes, and I am sorry that it is often quite difficult for the reporters to take down what I say. I got into difficulty with the Grain Exchange in Winnipeg because the reporter misunderstood me, and made me use the word "board" when it should have been "pool". The reporters have my sympathy, because I know I sometimes speak very rapidly, but at least, I do not read my speeches. I may commit other crimes, but that is not one of them. I am sure there is not a man in this chamber who could not make a better speech than I can, but many of them read what they have to say. If Your Honour would enforce the rule in this respect there would be greater public interest in what is said here.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: And there would be better speeches.

Hon. Mr. Horner: A former Speaker ruled against the reading of speeches, and I was delighted to hear him say that we were appointed to this chamber because we were supposed to have some ideas of our own.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: Honourable senators, on a point of order, I think the honourable senator from Blaine Lake has run off the rails. He is entirely out of order in discussing matters that have nothing to do with the bill before the house. I think he should stick to the switches. I would ask for a ruling as to whether the honourable senator should not confine himself to the bill before us.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I would say that the point of order is well taken.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I think so too. I will proceed to deal with the bill in accordance with the suggestion of the honourable senator from Brockville (Hon. Mr. Hardy).

I say that there is not a farmer or businessman in the province of Saskatchewan who did not expect that the government would prevent a railway strike, and I charge the government with failure to meet its responsibility in this regard. The government could have called the cabinet together, discussed the matter with the leaders of the unions

and settled the differences long ago. As it is, I have to leave my work and spend my valuable time in coming to Ottawa, while the whole transportation system is tied up for a week or ten days. I am still a useful person in any place, and I am expressing my views tonight because of a keen sense of my duty as a senator from the Province of Saskatchewan. I repeat that the government should have taken action long ago, and the strike on the railways should never have occurred.

I would remind honourable senators that in the Province of Saskatchewan many millions of dollars worth of land was given away in order to secure a railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway has sold much of its land, but it retained the mineral rights on it and is today reaping large benefits from this source. Yet we are forced to view this sickening spectacle of steel rails carrying no produce.

I make no apology for the time I have taken in criticizing the government for its failure to prevent a railway strike. I am perhaps prejudiced in such matters as these, because I do not believe a strike has ever helped anybody. In my opinion the courts of this country are fair and just, and if anybody has a grievance he can get redress. Everyone in Canada has the right to speak for himself as I am doing tonight in my humble and inefficient way before the Parliament of Canada. Our free democracy permits the individual to go before the courts to get justice. I am not stating the policy of any party when I denounce strikes generally, but am expressing my own personal belief.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: Order!

Hon. Mr. Horner: Am I not in order?

Hon. Mr. Hardy: No, you are not.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Certainly he is.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Yes, I am perfectly in order.

Hon. Mr. Hardy: I am going to ask the Speaker again to rule that you are out of order.

Hon. Mr. Euler: Let him finish.

Hon. Mr. Horner: I am not out of order. Here is the point. The Canadian Government should have settled this strike. It should never have occurred in the first place. It has cost this country \$100 million now, and it can all be charged directly to the government. They had every power to prevent the strike.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: May I ask the honourable senator from Blaine Lake a question? He