

have democracy in the courts of our country. You have your day in court, but we deny those who work and who produce for us the right to have their day in court, to sit around the table and to discuss differences in wages, and all matters pertaining to their future and their industry. Just so long as we do that we are going to have the reaction we have seen from those employed in industry. Most of the trouble and unrest, as I said a moment ago, arises from misunderstanding. Until the government is prepared to call in the union leaders from all across this country, sit in with them and give to the workers of this country the democracy we have talked about so much, just so long shall we have a continuation of that misunderstanding.

There are thousands and thousands of capable men and hundreds of capable union organizers who have the problem at their finger tips. There are the two national set-ups in Canada, namely, the congress of labour and the trades union congress, of which Mr. Tom Moore is the head. They would give leadership; they would be prepared to coordinate the work and take all the mystery out of the regulations. They would iron out the problems with the national war labour board. Instead of having workers running in from one end of the country to the other in an endeavour to have the national war labour board understand their problems, it could be worked out in the manner I have suggested.

I see a lot of grief ahead if the order in council put into operation is administered literally, as I read and understand it. I think the arrangement the Department of Labour has with the building industry is the set-up which should be applied to national conditions. In that instance they have regularly recognized representatives of the building industry in a legitimate organization, and they sit in with the minister and other representatives of the government to decide on certain regulations with respect to working conditions and wages for the duration of the war. This is a proper procedure, and exactly what should be done in every section of Canada where the workers are organized. Where they are not organized the government should endeavour to implement the principle set out under order in council P.C. 2685.

I have no desire to continue the discussion at greater length. I wished to make these observations for the benefit of the Minister of Labour. We in this group are prepared to cooperate with him in any way in which we can be helpful. We shall be leaving Ottawa shortly, and it is not likely that we shall be back for some time. I am going back to a section of the country where there is a solidly

organized movement. I am going back to people who are badly frustrated, but people who are prepared to do everything they can in the winning of the war. They have demonstrated that. They resent the fact that for thirty years they sat around conference tables with their employers; they have signed agreements and arbitrated their difficulties, but they find themselves to-day in a position where their union has been rendered impotent. They no longer have the right to bargain collectively with their employers. They must come to Ottawa and deal with the national war labour board. The national war labour board is hinged round with red tape and regulations, and is not in a position to make an analysis of the problems confronting the people in that end of the country. They see the democracy they have been working for for years taken away from them. These organizations were set up to give power to those people to voice their needs, their hopes and aspirations. I should hope the minister would accept the few remarks I have made as sincerely as I have made them. My suggestion is the answer to many of the problems with which the minister is faced. I know he wishes to do something about it, but I also know he is tied by regulations and by a machine, and that he must find it very hard to work.

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) I have no desire to delay the work of the committee and the adjournment of the house. As I have said already this morning, I must protest against the short time given to the committee to discuss the welfare of at least 3,500,000 people who are concerned with production in this country. It is not going to be helpful, when we go back to our homes and are asked why we did not take up this or why we did not take up that, to say that we had not an opportunity to do so. There are a number of things that I wish to say, but I shall be as brief as I can. In my opinion it is not so much what is done by the labour department as the way in which it is done.

What has been wrong with government-labour-industrial relations in Canada since the war began is that labour has not been taken into the confidence of the government and has not been made a partner in the war effort with the employers and with the government. In June, 1940, the government passed order in council, P.C. 2685, in which they approved the principle of collective bargaining. I want to tell the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) that no employer of labour in Canada has dishonoured that order in council more effectively and more deliberately than the