

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I want to speak on behalf of, and, I believe, with the authority of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. So far as he is concerned, I believe he would support me in saying that we have no desire for a return of the Japanese to our province.

Perhaps I may be permitted to digress for a moment. I regret that Canada is to lose from its capital city a good friend, a friend of all Canada, in the person of Torchy Anderson who, I am pleased to say, is coming to British Columbia. He does not always take my advice, although I think he should. There have been occasions, however, when he has taken it, and when he has taken it he has never missed a bet. However, the Southam press is not losing a bet.

To return to my original subject, let me say that the Minister of Veterans Affairs has made a statement which every member from British Columbia will support—"No Japanese for British Columbia".

Mr. MacINNIS: It has been said that the Minister of Labour has one of the most difficult departments of government to administer. I have no doubt as to the difficulties of his department, but I regret that both at this session and at the last we have had to deal with estimates of the Department of Labour on the eve of prorogation. I recall the closing of the session last year, when his estimates were before us, and it was just such an occasion as this.

If the estimates of the Department of Labour had come before this committee at a time when we were not rushing to prorogue, there are enough information, criticism and suggestions to make to keep us going for several days. However, in view of the general desire to finish to-night or to-morrow, I shall be brief in what I have to say. As a matter of fact I shall deal with only one matter, and with it as fairly as I can.

For more than a month and a half, the attention of parliament and of the country has been focussed on the industrial situation which prevails because of labour-management disputes. The minister made reference to that in the statement he read to the committee. In the forefront of those disputes is the stoppage of work in the basic steel industry. That dispute has received attention in the house on several occasions, as well as having been aired for several weeks before the standing committee on industrial relations. However, the dispute is still in operation, with results which verge on the disastrous for the country.

In my opinion the government should do something about it as quickly as possible. Every day the strike continues, the country

is losing much needed production; workers are losing income; merchants and others are losing business. What is perhaps the worst factor is that the public generally are losing faith in democratic institutions. Consequently I say with all the earnestness of which I am capable that, before parliament prorogues, we should have assurance from the government that this dispute will be settled as quickly as that can be done. As a basis for settlement I would urge the acceptance of the proposals made to the industrial relations committee by the representatives of the steel workers.

Since these stoppages of work began, I have said on many occasions that the disruption of production was far more detrimental to industry and to the country's economy—this is my opinion for what it is worth—and was far more inflationary than the increases asked for could possibly be. Slowly that idea or that point of view is getting over in the country. I could read editorial opinions which have appeared in newspapers and periodicals from one end of this country to the other in the past week or so. These are in support of the contention I have just made.

Mr. LENNARD: What papers?

Mr. MacINNIS: One of those good Conservative papers published in Ottawa.

Mr. McLURE: All Conservative papers are good.

Mr. LENNARD: Several in Ottawa.

Mr. MacINNIS: Yes, published in Ottawa. The following editorial appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* of August 29:

End this steel strike!

This prolonged steel strike, with sensational predictions of trouble (so far false) born of still more sensational reports about dominion police being flown from far parts to Hamilton, is doing grave harm to Canada. Not merely are we getting ourselves into the mood of war; we are shoving this country into a position of possibly irreparable harm.

Britain and the United States are going ahead; keeping their people at work, producing goods, getting export markets. Here in Canada our three basic steel industries are idle, other dependent industries are closing, our reconversion programme, including desperately needed housing, is bogged down. If this situation continues, we shall find ourselves in chaos.

Why? Simply because the government has drawn a wage line (exclusively in the case of steel) across a piece of paper and said that to cross that line will bring inflation. The thing doesn't seem to make sense.

Yesterday came a dispatch from Vancouver saying:

"The wheels of production speeded ahead today in vital British Columbia industry, strike threats removed with the granting of pay increases . . . to more than 5,000 workers . . . increases ranging from 13 to 20 cents an hour."