

which the members of the unions are to return to work are the same agreements that were in force when they went on strike, and these agreements are to continue in force until new ones are executed between the unions and railways.

Provision is made for terminating such agreements. If within thirty days—the bill originally provided fifteen days—of the coming into force of the Act no new agreements have been made or no arbitrator has been agreed upon for such purposes, the government will appoint an arbitrator who shall decide all matters not then agreed upon, and his decision shall be final. The powers of such arbitrator are listed in section 5 of the bill. I should mention that the thirty-day period may be extended upon the joint request of the unions and railways concerned. May I further point out that section 5 has been amended.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Have those amendments been printed?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** They have been printed, and I think some copies are available for general distribution.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** I should like to have a copy.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Perhaps the honourable deputy leader (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) will hand you his copy, while I read the amendment to the house. It has to do with the limits within which the arbitrator may negotiate. I shall read the amendment, and make such further explanation as I can.

Subsection 3 of section 5 now reads:

(3) In deciding any matter under this section, the arbitrator shall decide the matter within the limits of the proposals that he determines were made by the railway companies and the unions in respect of that matter at the time negotiations were terminated between them on the twenty-sixth day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty, or were made by either of them after the commencement of this Act at any time before the matter came before him and which narrow these limits, but the arbitrator by his decision shall not provide for a reduction in a rate of wages established pursuant to section 3.

That has to do with the four cents an hour.

**Hon. Mr. Moraud:** Is that a new subsection?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** It is a new subsection 3, and the present subsection 3 will become subsection 4.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** Read it again.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** It reads as follows:

In deciding any matter under this section, the arbitrator shall decide the matter within the limits of the proposals that he determines were made by the railway companies and the unions in respect of that matter at the time negotiations were terminated between them on the twenty-sixth day

of August, nineteen hundred and fifty, or were made by either of them after the commencement of this act at any time before the matter came before him and which narrow these limits, but the arbitrator by his decision shall not provide for a reduction in a rate of wages established pursuant to section 3.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Tell us what that means.

**Hon. Mr. Davies:** I should like to ask the honourable leader how long we must wait before we are given the amended bill? I understand that the bill now in our possession has been amended in several places. I would much prefer to have the amended bill before me.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I am in the hands of the house. I must confess that the other place moved with such alacrity that it caught me almost unprepared to give an explanation, but I realized that it would be in the interest of the Senate to have the matter brought before it as early as possible. How long honourable senators wish to consider this matter is for them to decide.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** May I ask the honourable leader whether the clause which he has just read refers to the increase to be asked by the workers, or to the pay which was in effect before this request was made?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I must confess I am not an authority in these matters. Perhaps those who heard the discussion in the other place could inform the house better than I, but my understanding is that the arbitrator is to arbitrate as between the proposals of the railway companies on the one hand and the unions on the other. The question will then be narrowed down to the best proposals.

**Hon. Mr. Moraud:** It applies to the present case only?

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Oh, yes. It all applies to the present case only. It says:

In deciding any matter under this section, the arbitrator shall decide the matter within the limits of the proposals that he determines were made by the railway companies and the unions in respect of that matter at the time negotiations were terminated between them on the twenty-sixth day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty, or were made by either of them after the commencement of this Act at any time before the matter came before him and which narrow these limits . . .

**Hon. Mr. Euler:** May I ask the honourable leader a question on that point? It is my understanding that the unions made what they called certain concessions. I am not going to say what they were. Then, after the strike commenced, they withdrew the concessions they had made and said in effect "Now that we are striking we are not going to make the same offer as we made before". Which of those two is going to be taken into consideration?