

of it quite well if we stick to the program we have put in place.

The budget brought in by the Minister of Finance on February 26 was a recovery budget. It was meant to regenerate economic activity in the country. It is doing that. We are beginning to see the signs. Real estate sales are up for six months in a row. We think the economy is beginning to turn around quite nicely and we are going to be the beneficiaries of it down the road.

The thing we have to do is show leadership. We have to show the private sector that we will not allow government expenses to get out of line. We have put a bill in place for that. We cannot allow wage settlements in the government sector to be out of line.

Six of the provinces have followed suit and have taken the lead from the Minister of Finance and indicated that they are either are going to do the same or have done the same thing as the minister suggested in his budget. Therefore, I think we are on the right course and we will come out of this in pretty good shape down the road.

We will, as minister said in his speech, comply with the request of the Public Service Staff Relations Board and are ready to meet with Mr. Bean and his negotiators to see if we can reach some sort of an agreement with them on non-monetary matters and other matters. We hope they will come to the table and do what they can to help the process along and do their part.

It is rather ironic that their own employees have to be represented by unions. I do not think they have bargained in good faith with some of their own employees. From what we read in the news comments, they have had some difficulty in coming to agreements to amounts less than zero, three and three. But we have had good success so far with several bargaining units and we are going to continue to bargain with them. We are confident that as time goes on we will be able to bring this matter to a conclusion this week and we will proceed with other legislation as it comes up.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the member a couple of short, sharp questions.

Government Orders

I listened to him and I really found it a bit offensive. He said that we negotiated and we ended up and we settled with a number of unions at zero, three and three and they are perfectly happy. I would like to ask him if in all good conscience he can tell me that they negotiated with the air traffic controllers, the ships' officers, the engineering people and did not give them monetary compensation in some form or other, whether it was in upgraded classification or through financial compensation. What you did was all through the back door, but you are not forthcoming. You do it in a very conniving and wrong-headed kind of way. It is not open. It is not for the public to understand.

If you can show me one of those groups that did zero, three and three I would be very pleased to say that I was wrong and that you were right. I have a sense that there was certainly compensation of some kind so that you could negotiate. Why do you not do the same thing with the Public Service Alliance? Why do you not negotiate while they are at work? Why do you not appoint a mediator and allow those people to go back to work? They want to work and at the same time do the right thing in terms of their ability to meet the increased inflationary costs across this land. You have not allowed them the dignity of their right to work and at the same time their right to compensation which you have done with the other groups that you say you have negotiated with zero, three and three. You know that you have not done that.

• (1140)

Why do you want to leave those doors closed, rather than open with respect to negotiation? You know very well that you have also given yourself a clause in this bill that is totally reprehensible. Again, it is government through Order in Council. That is wrong and you know that.

In many ways I have a lot of respect for the member for Burlington. But when he can stand there and hold the government line in that way, it is totally unacceptable. Just stand up and tell the truth about how you negotiated those other contracts and what the monetary compensation was.

Second, could you tell me why you do not take a leaf from what Judge Gold did with the post office and send them back while you negotiate? Last, are you prepared to take that cut in salary? I am. Are you?