

a proviso, that if their full terms and their full demands were not met within thirty days they would resume the walk-out.

Mr. SLAGHT: Yes; but they accepted it in the hope that a peaceful solution would be reached.

Mr. GILLIS: Yes.

Mr. SLAGHT: Is my hon. friend helping matters by raising them here while the steel workers, as well as the government, are endeavouring to work it out?

Mr. COLDWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that you give the hon. member who has the floor the opportunity of placing his case before the house, and then the hon. gentleman opposite may make his speech afterwards. These interruptions should not be counted in his forty minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL: It is a false statement.

Mr. SLAGHT: The hon. member did not protest.

Mr. COLDWELL: He did not sit down.

Mr. SLAGHT: I will not sit down, on your dictation.

Mr. COLDWELL: I did not say that the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) should sit down. I was saying that the hon. member who is speaking did not sit down while the hon. member for Parry Sound was interrupting him.

Mr. SLAGHT: He is not sitting down now to hear you talk, either.

Mr. COLDWELL: But I did not interrupt him.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member's time has expired.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. COLDWELL: That is not fair.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): There have been innumerable interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed only with the consent of the house.

Mr. SLAGHT: I think he should be allowed to go on. I interrupted him.

Mr. GILLIS: I draw this to the attention of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) and of the house. I know something about these matters, and if this order in council means what it says, then you are going into that trouble all over again. If I had the time I could prove conclusively to the Minister of Labour, by documents and so on leading up

[Mr. Gillis.]

to the trouble that that condition existed with the steel workers from April, 1941. They started in on this in April, 1941, and there was no walk-out until January 12, 1943.

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not wish my hon. friend to leave the impression that the matter came into the hands of the federal Department of Labour in 1941. Let us have that clear. I do not care what the hon. member says, but I would make it perfectly clear that when the matter came to the federal Department of Labour—and I am not making any criticism about any other department, or the machinery of the board—they got the commission as soon as it could be established. And of course the strike took place before they had received the report of the commission.

Mr. GILLIS: This matter was in process of negotiation before the present Minister of Labour took office.

Mr. MITCHELL: Yes.

Mr. GILLIS: It was under negotiation.

Mr. MITCHELL: You know what labour negotiations are; they are continuous.

Mr. GILLIS: From 1941, when the first application was made before the Department of Labour, it has gone through the process of negotiation, until January, 1943. I think the men were patient and long-suffering. But that is not what I am concerned about. I know definitely that it was the adherence to the price-ceiling and wage-stabilization policy that precipitated the whole matter. The commission under their terms of reference were prevented from bringing a settlement back. They met, not to decide as to whether the wages asked were justifiable, or whether the company could pay the wages the steel workers were asking, but they met to determine whether P.C. 5963 gave them the privilege of making any changes from the basic rates. They found that under that order in council they could not make any changes in the basic rates, and consequently, with a minority report, they came back and reported accordingly. That order in council is the thing which precipitated the whole walk-out. If we are to adhere to that, and use it as a basis for the next inquiry, then the war labour board has no authority to do more than what was done by the Barlow commission, and we shall have it all over again, even before it starts. That will be the case, unless the government is prepared to give the board broader reference, and permit them to negotiate the matter on its merits. I do not want to see the steel workers of Sydney go out again. I do not want to see them go out at