

*Government Orders*

We have not had an opportunity for both sides to bring their arguments forward because the company has refused to this date to discuss the issue of the pension and job security situations in the port of Thunder Bay.

I will be presenting that motion later on today. I give notice to all the members who are here to think about that because it is a little bit different than what is normally put in place. I think in this particular case the uniqueness of it will allow that sort of situation to take place.

I understand the minister is now looking at that seriously. I think his fear is that this might become unruly and in essence the government appointed arbitrator will have to make the decision anyway.

I am hoping that with both parties at the table in the sense of being a more active participant, with the technical expertise of those other two individuals, we may be able to get some sort of long-term resolution to this problem and not a short-term band-aid that a mediator-arbitrator normally puts in place. An arbitrator is normally not capable of dealing with the intricate issues of the whole industry because, to put it simply, that individual does not work in that industry on a daily basis. I look to the government to look on this particular amendment favourably because it is something that I am sure that the workers and the people of Thunder Bay would like resolved in the long term, and that is just what the Lakehead terminal employers are proposing to do with the 900 employees who are left in that particular city.

I want to suggest also to the government that we on this side are very concerned about the process of back to work legislation that is being put forward to us in this House on a fairly regular occasion. I want to make mention of three pieces of legislation that we have seen; one as late as last June and the last two, this one we are talking about today and the PSAC back to work legislation.

I first commend the minister on this piece of legislation and the one in June allowing us a mediator-arbitrator. Hopefully we will expand on that and have a panel. I must confess that I am a little bit lost to understand why they would not also allow for a mediator-arbitrator in the PSAC dispute and the back to work legislation that

we saw by the President of the Treasury Board not too long ago in this place.

The inconsistency of the policy of the government as it relates to labour relations in this country and the lack of policy and direction that it is giving employers and employees alike is going to create some difficulties for us down the road if it continues.

I caution the government not to continue to put these kinds of pressures on the collective bargaining process. If it does, it will completely fall apart. I do not want to sensationalize this issue, but I want the government to realize that there will come a point in time if it continues this back to work legislation on a regular basis where employees will refuse to go back to work. Then the whole system of our laws and our institutions will fall apart. It is not that drastic a move for people not to realize that it could happen. It simply could happen if we continue not to have the sensitivity that is necessary to allow both sides who are in dispute to work out their differences without the hammer coming down.

I have discussed this issue on numerous occasions with the minister. I have discussed this with both parties on numerous occasions. I want all in this place to know that I do not for one believe that the Director General of Mediation and Conciliation or the Minister of Labour and his department have done a job which could even be considered decent in this whole issue.

We have no choice in this place as members of Parliament but to vote in favour of legislation like this because of the competing interests and the pressures that are there. We do not have to like it, even though we do vote in favour of it because we realize the sensitivity of the problems that the farmers in the west are having at this time and the difficulties of our international reputation of shippers of grain to the rest of the world.

Having said that, I would like to conclude by saying to the minister that we on this side would like to suggest to him and to the government that they reflect on what the union has asked them to do and that is to take a look at a particular appointment: "Therefore, under Canada Labour Code Part I, division 7, general promotion of industrial peace, the Transportation Communication Union, lodge 650 hereby make formal application to the minister to appoint an industrial inquiry commission to examine the following".