

justice seems now to have been replaced by a desire for social revenge. Every man's hand is turned against his neighbour.

I received a telephone call yesterday from a young man in Victoria, an employee of Pacific Western Airlines. The staff has been warned that in the next day or so 500 employees of the airline company are to be laid off. Who was protecting this young employee? Certainly not the government, certainly not the unions, certainly not the dissident workers. This young man was a booking agent. He told me he had just seen three months' work go down the drain. He had booked flights from Victoria to Vancouver, to California and the Hawaiian Islands, to England and to Sweden. Then suddenly, through the actions of another group, his winter's work was wasted. At the end of the conversation he said, "I wish to hell I was getting \$9,000, which I am not."

I think it is up to us in parliament to realize there is something basically wrong with our labour legislation. What causes people to go constantly on strike? A lot of us who enjoy higher incomes say they should do this or that because of their fellowmen or for their country, for patriotic reasons or the good of the economy. That is not the way the workingman sees it. Most workers are mainly concerned with money. Let hon. members not look down their noses at that. Money is very important, particularly to those who do not have it. They do not readily understand the need to save and invest as well as consume, or accept the need for national sacrifices. Every gardener and farmer knows that you cannot consume the seed corn. This fact is not understood about the need for investment. Many people fondly believe that they can consume the entire product of a particular industry. With inflation running at what seems likely to be a rate of 15 per cent, we are bordering on a catastrophic situation and only tremendous sacrifices on the part of everyone will save us from the fate of the Weimar Republic.

● (2220)

I should like to quote a few remarks by what I consider to be one of the most responsible labour leaders in the world today, Mr. Frank Chapple of Great Britain. He had this to say a few weeks ago, and I would draw it particularly to the attention of our friends in the socialist party to our left:

I certainly do not believe that free collective bargaining has achieved better results than the application of a prices and incomes policy. If there is a criticism that can be made of the present wages structure it is that it stems directly from the effects of a free collective bargaining system and not from the successful application of a prices and incomes policy—

Then he went on to add, in what I consider to be a very good way of putting it:

I am always suspicious of people who have all the answers to a problem, but there is a very great need for those with the responsibility of managing the industry to involve those who have worked in the industry in a meaningful dialogue about objectives and expectations.

I should like to point out that the situation in Canada in regard to labour unrest is nothing short of disastrous when compared with a country such as Sweden. Over a period of time, Canada lost 3½ million man-days per year at the same time as Sweden lost 75,000 man-days per year. This is in a country roughly one-third the size of Canada.

Airline Firefighters Strike

Mr. Nesdoly: What difference does that make?

Mr. McKinnon: Let me just read to my friend from Meadow Lake (Mr. Nesdoly) a few things about Sweden. Compared to many other west European countries, state-owned undertakings in Sweden account for a relatively small part of the whole economy—6 per cent—Swedish industry being still overwhelmingly in private ownership.

Mr. Nesdoly: They have a socialist government.

Mr. McKinnon: They may have a socialist government but they do not have a socialist state. Their industry is largely in private hands, but they do have trust in each other. The workers trust their leaders. I think the leader of the NDP served his country ill tonight when he said that when the employer wants something, the worker should oppose it. He was speaking of the government of Canada as the employer. It is this attitude of turning one Canadian against another, telling them to be suspicious of everything that the other side does, that leaves us in the position where you cannot sit down and get opposing sides to talk to each other. They have been so indoctrinated with this kind of demagogic outburst that their rationality in bargaining has left them.

I can only say to the minister that I enjoy his eloquence very much. I always enjoy his speeches in the House. If there is a reshuffle of the cabinet I should like him to be a minister without portfolio so that I can enjoy his speeches without suffering what he does to various departments.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with some attention to this debate tonight. Let me say at once that if the fact that we are having it indicates that the members of the House from various parts of Canada are concerned about the situation in British Columbia, then perhaps it will have had some value. It may indicate that in our minds there is real concern that we arrive quickly at a fair settlement of the negotiations regarding this particular situation in British Columbia.

Having just listened to my colleague from southern Vancouver Island, I think we should not put this matter out of perspective. It is not as if we are faced with a national disaster in any sense of that word. It is quite true that a large number of people in British Columbia are seriously inconvenienced, and one cannot discount that. But the fact remains that if we are going to have what some of us like to consider a free society in which working people are not serfs under the lash of the employer, then we must continue the bargaining process. If grievances reach the point where they have to be strongly expressed, that is part and parcel of that process. Certainly this particular situation does not mean the end of the world for people on Vancouver Island, in Vancouver or in Prince George.

The hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle) suggested that he would be prepared to stay here all next week—I thought I understood him to say—to debate this issue. My only comment would be that if we were to stay here all next week and listen to the kind of inflammatory speech that was made by my colleague for Prince George-Peace River, there would probably be a strike at all airports in Canada.