

*Government Orders*

All they are asking for is what the Human Rights Commission of Canada has said they are entitled to—a fair wage for the work they do and equal wages with other people doing comparable work. They will not settle for less despite this legislation and, if the government is serious about what it says about pay equity, then let it accept some of the motions that will follow mine. Let it accept the spirit of the first amendments. Let it very clearly say that pay equity is referred to the conciliation boards established in this legislation.

The whole process that has led us to this despicable point has been controlled by Treasury Board, has been manipulated by Treasury Board, has been thwarted by Treasury Board. The President of the Treasury Board even tried to imply in the House that the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada supports this back to work legislation. That is not true.

The nurses from St. Anne de Bellevue hospital are here today. They have travelled all the way from Montreal. They are sitting in the gallery to let this House know that they as professional workers in the Public Service of Canada do not support back to work legislation. They do support fair treatment for the hospital services workers who they work with every day. They support a reasonable and fair settlement to this contract, not a forced resumption of work.

They know that when they go back into those hospitals with workers who have been forced back there with no hope of a fair contract, the situation will not allow for a pleasant working environment.

I ask the opposition, I ask the government and I ask particularly the President of the Treasury Board to recognize the importance of this issue and the importance of parity for the ships' crews workers as essential fundamental pre-conditions to be able to resolve these contracts that have been now outstanding for two years. I ask them to recognize that the kinds of wages these people earn are not fair and not just. The daily cost of them not being at work is more than it would take to settle this contract for a whole year.

The process has not been fair, and this piece of legislation today continues the unfairness and the manipulateness of that process. It sets up two conciliation boards which are supposed to impose a settlement of something that the government has been unable and unwilling to negotiate for over two years.

The normal process in conciliation boards, the normal process in decent, fair, humane labour relations is that each side names its members to a conciliation board and those members get to name an acceptable chair. It means that the process is not weighted in favour of the employer or the employees and that the fairness of the arguments that come before the board will determine what the settlement is.

• (1600)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret that the hon. member's time has expired.

**Mrs. Catterall:** Just one more sentence to finish off?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Yes.

**Mrs. Catterall:** Therefore, I urge the government to look carefully at these amendments, to not act vindictively, to attempt to improve this legislation, to attempt to improve the atmosphere in which these people will be forced back to work and, above all, to sit down and negotiate fairly. I will have an opportunity to speak further tomorrow and I will do so.

**Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn):** Mr. Speaker, the day before yesterday when the government introduced its last heavy hand into this House, that is, closure on this portion of the debate on Bill C-49, the justice minister said that there had been agreement between the government and the Official Opposition on certain matters which would have led to a speedy conclusion to the passage of Bill C-49 but that it was the members of the New Democratic Party who held it up because, he said, we had to appeal to a higher authority.

In his sneering fashion, he was referring to us having been in consultation with the Public Service Alliance of Canada. There is a very good reason to do that because it is the Public Service Alliance of Canada which represents the people who have been so demeaned by this government and by governments prior to this one as well, ever since they became eligible to be unionized and to go on strike.

Since 1967, this is the first time that these people have been able to go on strike. Certainly it is not any wonder to anyone who has been following the process why they have gone on strike. They are the most underpaid people in the civil service, and yet, one has to wonder why, if these people are as essential as the government has said