

*Legislation Respecting Railway Matters*

**Mr. Winkler:** Can I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Lewis:** Certainly.

**Mr. Winkler:** Is the hon. member suggesting that if this bill becomes law the members of the union should not obey it?

**Mr. Lewis:** Not at all. I am suggesting exactly the same thing that the right hon. Leader of the Opposition suggested—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Lewis:**—that he suggested not once, but a dozen times. He told the government that this law would not produce respect—I cannot quote him—that this law is in danger of being not obeyed. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), in the debate in 1960 when the right hon. Leader of the Opposition was prime minister, warned the government of that time of the same thing. I have not time to pull out the quotation, but the record shows that the Secretary of State for External Affairs warned the then prime minister that the law he proposed was in danger of being disobeyed. That is what I am saying. I am saying precisely what the right hon. Leader of the Opposition said, that it is wrong to provide a law which is unjust and which will produce disrespect.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that is just exactly what I did not say. I said that once parliament decides, unless there is to be anarchy and chaos in the country, the law must be obeyed.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the speeches of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, often with great interest and amusement, though not always with approval. I, too, am for virtue. I agree with this great declaration of his that the law should be obeyed. I agree with that. Everyone is against anarchy.

I remind the right hon. Leader of the Opposition that he said the actual increase would be 6 per cent. He talked of the 6 per cent boys, and of the six buck boys. He then said: "Will the men go back to work?"

● (9:00 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** That is not what you are asking.

**Mr. Lewis:** Oh, yes—this is what I am asking.

[Mr. Lewis.]

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You are backing up.

**Mr. Lewis:** I am not backing up. The great position of right hon. Leader of the Opposition does not intimidate me. Much as I respect him, just let him take it easy. I am saying the same thing, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Caouette:** That is not what you said.

**Mr. Lewis:** I say the same thing, and I draw the attention of this parliament to the reports in the newspapers that the men have said they cannot accept this. And I say to the government that neither it nor this parliament—somewhere in the right hon. gentleman's speech this idea is expressed, even though I cannot put my finger on it—should put an act on the statute books which it may be difficult for Canadian citizens to obey, and which some of them have said they will not obey.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

**Mr. Caouette:** May I ask the hon. member for York South one question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the house give consent for the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) to ask a question?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Caouette:** In the name of the freedom of the workingmen on the railways, or of any workingmen in Canada, the hon. member is strongly opposed to compulsory arbitration. Would he also be opposed, for the same reason, to the compulsory check-off which is entirely against freedom of any workingman who does not want to belong to any union in Canada?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has the hon. member leave to answer the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Lewis:** I think that in courtesy to this parliament I ought to answer a question which is addressed to me, if not always in courtesy to other things. I believe the hon. gentleman asking the question produced a typical antilabour red herring.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.