

Legislation Respecting Railway Matters

guide lines within which bargaining would be easier to carry out.

If this were done there would not be the delay which has taken place in this case since December of 1965. When negotiations get under way a great deal of the preliminary work normally done by a conciliation board would be already completed, thus shortening the present time-consuming conciliation process.

Present conciliation procedures are often time wasting and frustrating, and I place this suggestion before the house in the hope that the government may give consideration to establishing a body such as this which would operate continuously, making available full economic and statistical information to both labour and industry at all times.

Now, sir, I say through you to the government that the answer given by the Prime Minister, the defence, the apologia, will not satisfy anybody. It was carefully put together, replete with apologies and alibis. But apologies and alibis do not fill dinner pails.

In 1960—

Mr. Pickersgill: They did not have a dinner pail then.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —the opposition of that day, now the government, moved an amendment. I wonder whether they recall it.

An hon. Member: Forgotten it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Certainly not the Minister of Transport, because he has the document before him. But do the others recall it? I intend to read that amendment. Remember, these are the people, now sitting opposite, who condemned us for stopping a strike before it began.

Mr. Pickersgill: And giving the workers nothing.

Mr. Starr: They got everything: They got collective bargaining.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Today they are to get 6 per cent from the successors of the six-buck boys. What did they do in 1960 when we preserved this nation from a strike and, after a period of time, were able to secure agreement? The Prime Minister says he hopes we will act with the same responsibility as he and those associated with him did. What did they do? They moved an amendment, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 350—

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

The right hon. gentleman was speaking, and these were his words:

Therefore, so there will be no misunderstanding or mistake about the attitude of the Liberal opposition, I wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Laurier, the following amendment: "This house declines to proceed with the second reading of a bill the provisions of which establish a compulsory and discriminatory wage freeze for railway employees contrary to the recommendation for a wage increase made by a board of conciliation appointed under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act."

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: No freeze this time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Are they boasting over there about what they are doing with their 6 per cent, having recently given 31 per cent and their approval of it? Do they boast today about the 6 per cent they provide? Do they boast about the provisions for compulsory arbitration which are set out in detail within this bill?

This is a measure which constitutes the worst kind of compulsory legislation. Let us read what it says. Clause 9(1) provides as follows:

The Minister of Labour shall appoint a mediator—

I shall leave out the other words.

—who shall forthwith endeavour to mediate the matters in dispute between the railway companies and the unions and to bring about agreement between them and who shall report to the Minister of Labour, not later than November 15, 1966, on the progress of the negotiations between the railway companies and the unions.

Well, my hon. friend from Ontario (Mr. Starr) asked for the appointment of a mediator in June. He said, act. But while fear and frustration operated, the government did nothing. Now they come along and say: Appoint a mediator.

Reading further in clause 9, we find this:

(2) If the mediator reports to the Minister of Labour that favourable progress in negotiations has been made, the governor in council may direct the mediator to continue mediation and to make a further report to the Minister of Labour at such time as the governor in council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour, may direct.

● (10:00 p.m.)

Then clause 10 reads:

On the recommendation of the Minister of Labour . . . the governor in council may make regulations

(a) for referring to a board of three arbitrators appointed by the governor in council . . . such matters relating to the revision or amendment of the collective agreements to which this act applies as the parties thereto may request or as the governor in council may deem expedient—