

*Labour Dispute—Oshawa Strike*

I am pleased indeed to hear my hon. friend say that there is no intention of violating the laws of the country in the special instance he has mentioned, and I hope and trust that our labour forces as well as our employers will show to the world that illegality and disorder will never become an industrial weapon in this dominion.

As to the attitude of the government, I have nothing to add to or withdraw from the statement I made in the house a few days ago. I may assure the house and the country that we will be pleased to cooperate in the fullest measure, consistent with our jurisdiction, to effect a peaceful and friendly settlement of this difficulty. I hope my hon. friend also will cooperate.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, there was only one purpose behind bringing this matter before the house to-day. That was to direct the attention of the government to the situation that is developing at Oshawa. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) undertook to read some of the statements made by Premier Hepburn, but he was not allowed to do so. If I were allowed to read some very brief quotations from the statements by Premier Hepburn I should be glad to do so, because they put Premier Hepburn definitely behind General Motors in their opposition to the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, that is not so.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Only in opposition to an illegal organization.

Mr. MacINNIS: The C.I.O. is no more illegal in this country than the American Federation of Labour is, and I have been a member of the American Federation of Labour for the last thirty years. I am still a member of an organization that is affiliated with the American Federation of Labour; as a matter of fact it is an industrial organization, not based on craft, and we have had very harmonious relations with the company with which we work for a longer period of time than that.

I am going to make only one request to-day, and after listening to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) I think it will be conceded. I believe that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) and the government are just as much interested in bringing about a peaceful and equitable settlement in this case as they were in connection with the threatened railway strike. We must remember that the railway workers are sheltered employees. They have been organized for many years;

[Mr. E. Lapointe.]

they have carried on negotiations with their employers, and nearly always the chairman of the negotiating committee has been an American citizen, an officer of the international brotherhood organization. Such men as those concerned in Oshawa have never been able to organize. At the present time there is a general tendency toward organization, and in order to have harmonious relations in industry of necessity the employees must be organized. I believe every member of this house will agree to that. Now I am asking the Minister of Labour if he will use every available facility within his department to bring the situation in Oshawa to a peaceful and satisfactory conclusion to everyone concerned, which I am satisfied can be done.

Hon. NORMAN McL. ROGERS (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I imagine all hon. members will share the opinion I now express, that it ought to be the purpose of any discussion here to facilitate rather than to prevent the satisfactory settlement of the dispute at Oshawa. I believe I need not assure the hon. member who has just spoken that the services of the conciliation branch of the Department of Labour in Ottawa will be made available immediately in order that, in the event of the parties to the dispute being agreeable, we may be able to render some assistance in bringing about a satisfactory settlement. May I point out however that the department of labour of the province of Ontario has its own conciliation service, and that up to the present time that service has been dealing with the dispute. I well remember that when the estimates of the Department of Labour were before the house some time ago the question arose as to possible duplication of or conflict between the conciliation services of the dominion and provincial departments of labour. I sought to explain at that time that so far as the dominion Department of Labour was concerned, sometimes we had to time our intervention in order that it might have the best possible effect. In other words, it would not be desirable that we should interfere in a dispute within a province when the department of labour of that province was actually engaged in negotiations.

As hon. members are possibly aware, that situation has existed for the past week. The department of labour of the province of Ontario has been carrying on negotiations between the company and the employees with a view to settlement of the dispute. Having said that, I can only repeat that the Department of Labour will use its entire resources