

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 9, 1957

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY—TABLING OF CONCILIATION BOARD REPORTS

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to a question addressed yesterday by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). In accordance with that request I tabled at noon five copies of the conciliation board's report covering the dispute between the locomotive engineers and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as well as five copies of the minority report.

Then as to the other part of the hon. member's question, he asked if we could table all the correspondence with the parties concerned dealing with the matter. On looking this up I find that the correspondence is quite sketchy, consisting mainly of copies of telegrams. In order to give a better picture I have undertaken to prepare a factual report covering the background of the dispute leading up to yesterday. This will contain summaries of telephone conversations as well as copies of telegrams. I am in your hands as to whether this should be tabled with the Clerk or included in *Hansard*.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this subject I wonder if not only the statement which the minister has prepared but also the report of the conciliation board and the minority report could be included as an appendix to *Hansard*?

Mr. Gregg: The report of the conciliation board and the minority report are very long documents and they have been tabled. If any hon. member would like to have a copy for study I would be happy to provide one. I think that would be better than including it in *Hansard*. This other document includes summaries of the reports and the correspondence we have had with the parties concerned, but it does not include a large number of wires, resolutions, summaries of telephone calls on this topic with parties who are not involved in the dispute.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis), to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 26 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the need for the government to appoint a controller to take over the temporary management of the Canadian Pacific Railway so that its operation on the former basis might be resumed immediately pending an agreement between the company and its employees on all matters now in dispute. I think it is obvious to the house that this is a definite matter of urgent public importance and I am therefore moving this motion.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out yesterday to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), it is a fact that this strike is referred to in the speech from the throne and the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne which is to proceed as soon as we reach orders of the day will permit hon. gentlemen to make any suggestions they wish to make in connection with this strike which they think are in the public interest. It is not only the urgency of a matter which determines whether you allow the regular procedure of the house to be interrupted; there is also the urgency of debate to be considered. There can be just as full a debate on the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne as there could be under the motion which has been submitted by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell).

I think there have been several occasions when Your Honour has decided that that being the case there were no grounds for interrupting the course of the regular procedure of the house as it had been arranged, and in this case as it had been acquiesced in yesterday.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I say a word on the point raised by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) as to whether there is urgency of debate in connection with this matter. According to the authorities—and on previous occasions Your Honour has made the same