

me that this Bill the Government has introduced is a just and fair. The Government is stopping negotiations, saying that it is okay for women to work for less. That will be put into law, making sure that is how they work. That is what the Government is really doing. But it is not just women that which the Government is getting at. It is getting at families, reducing standards of living and hurting people.

This kind of legislation before us is Draconian. This is the kind of legislation of which we should be ashamed. Surely we should spend every minute of our lives delaying this legislation, making sure that we will not have to hang our heads in shame, having become a party to it. We in the New Democratic Party have no intention of facilitating the Government by passing this kind of legislation. Do not say that we feel badly about it. We are proud of it. We are very proud to support the principle that dignity and quality of life is something people deserve.

We also recognize that it was the Government which brought on the strike. It was not CUPW. The Government said very early that what it was going to do was hire replacement workers and franchise out, that it could save a whole lot of money and there was no need for high paying jobs, and by "high paying" it meant \$12 and \$13 an hour. Maybe the Government thinks it could get the minimum wages changed to \$2 or \$3 an hour; then it would be very happy because it could exploit that many more people, and then say that that many more jobs had been created. Canadians no longer want that kind of thing to happen. I think the next election will show that people do not want that to happen. These people were willing to go to the negotiating table, they were willing to go on rotating strikes and come to some compromises. They were willing to have true and good bargaining take place; the people wanted to arrive at things that are fair. That type of thing has been stopped and suffocated by the Government. The Government instead has hired scabs and pitted people against each other.

Of course there is violence on the picket line. If you knew that your family would be hungry, that your future was gone and that your job was no longer secure you would feel violent. This country went to war for freedom in 1939 because we felt that those rights existed. I never thought that war was a solution to anything, but lots of people thought that war would protect freedom. The Government is supporting and encouraging violence because it is driving people to frustration, to fight for the survival for their own quality of life and the ability to feed their families.

The kind of Bill we have before us says that we no longer respect that. With this kind of legislation we are stepping back into the 1920s and the dirty thirties. That is what the Government is trying to do to the country. It will not get away with it because there are too many people who know that the quality of life and dignity of the human being and the family is far too precious for us to accede to the Government saying, "exploitation, exploitation, exploitation".

Time Allocation

It is urgent that this debate continue. I think it needs to continue by any manner or means so that we will be able to stop this legislation from passing.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take part today in this debate to put an end to the conflict between the Canada Post Corporation and its various employees. This is rather a difficult situation and I suggest that, as the Government, we just cannot allow it to continue.

I certainly realize that the best thing would be for both parties, namely the Union and the Canada Post Corporation, to reach a negotiated settlement. But considering that both parties are so very far apart, as the Government, we cannot wait until acts of violence occur or allow employees to go without their salaries, not getting their pay cheques at the end of the week, or delay for weeks making a decision or adopting a legislation as we are doing now.

Madam Speaker, I may have a few points . . . I suggest that Canadians would want to know what is going on in these negotiations. As far as the conflict between Canada Post and its employees is concerned, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) has provided a detailed chronology of events and described the efforts made to settle this conflict through conciliation, and here are a few points which were mentioned by conciliation commissioner Claude Foisy in his report.

The conciliation commissioner's report points to a number of very serious omissions on the part of the parties to these negotiations. It was obvious there was no desire to reach a compromise, and they consequently failed their duty to negotiate a collective agreement. Despite all the rhetoric and attempts to have the public see the other party as responsible for the deadlock, what has been reported by the media during the last few weeks, Madam Speaker, is sufficient evidence of the parties' unfortunate performance at the bargaining table and their refusal to take seriously their duty to their members and to the Canadian people.

Here are some comments that appear on page 2 of the conciliation commissioner's report. When he met with the parties for the first time, there were 120 items on the table, that is, fifty-two management demands and sixty-eight union demands. That is a considerable number of items at this stage in the negotiations. Madam Speaker, listen to this. The commissioner then pointed out an amazing fact: the number of items was the same as at the very beginning of the negotiations. In other words, before the conciliation commissioner became involved, the parties had not agreed on any of the 120 items at issue. They only managed to sign a few clauses they had agreed not to change in the previous agreement.

In his report, the commissioner gives his evaluation of the negotiations, and anyone who reads this part of the report will be readily convinced that the talks reflected a total absence of constructive collective bargaining. The commissioner indicated