

Supply—Labour

because earlier today we had considerable discussion about the increase in the cost of living.

It is not enough to have the kind of platitudes which we have been receiving from the government. The people of Canada require a prices review board to examine the large-scale price increases which are taking place even while companies are showing the largest profits they have ever had. We need a really aggressive and successful crackdown on the combines which are milking the people of this country. It is necessary that the government call on Canadian business and industry to be reasonable and not increase prices at a time when their profits are at an all-time high. If such a policy is not instituted by the government, the minister will be busy 24 hours a day.

I wish to deal specifically, Mr. Chairman, with two or three matters which come directly within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour. As I listened to the minister today discuss the Freedman report and the strike of the longshoremen, it seemed to me that the minister really could not have read, or if he did read really did not understand, what Mr. Justice Freedman said. What he said in his report was that labour and management should negotiate changes in working conditions which affect workers as well as management, even when they take place during the lifetime of a contract. Surely Mr. Justice Freedman made it clear that if negotiation could not take place voluntarily, as often is the case, the government should bring in legislation to bring about that kind of negotiation.

In the speech the minister made today and in speeches he has made on other occasions, there has been nothing to indicate that the minister accepts this basic proposal made by Mr. Justice Freedman. How can you have voluntary agreement to negotiate this kind of change when industry, almost unanimously, has rejected the proposals made by Mr. Justice Freedman? In today's *Globe and Mail* there is a report of a conference held in Toronto. The story is written by Roger Newman and is headed "Freedman Proposal Would Impede Economic Progress, Executive Says". I should like to read a few paragraphs from this article:

The federal government will be blocking Canada's economic progress if it implements legislation based on a recent report by Mr. Justice Samuel Freedman of Manitoba, a vice president of Canadian Westinghouse Ltd. said in Toronto yesterday.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

J. W. Henley, who directs Westinghouse's personnel division, said the Freedman report—which says employers should consult employees about technological changes—would force manufacturers to defer innovations. He was speaking to a law and industrial relations conference sponsored by Osgoode Hall and the University of Toronto's centre for industrial relations.

Mr. Henley said the changes brought about by technological innovations should be handled through social legislation, not contract bargaining. He said that if the government adopts the Freedman report, it would mean that manufacturers would have to postpone technical improvements until the next time they negotiate labor contracts with their employees.

First of all, I wish to say that what Mr. Henley says is not true. What is true is that his words indicate the hostility of industry in general to the recommendations made by Mr. Justice Freedman. That being the case, it really is preaching in the wilderness for the minister to say that he hopes and trusts these things can be done voluntarily and thinks it would be much better if they were. In my opinion it would be better if these things could be done voluntarily, but because they were not in the case of the C.N.R. there was a stoppage of work when the railway attempted to implement drastic changes.

• (3:40 p.m.)

Mr. Nicholson: Would the hon. member permit a question? Is it not a fact that Mr. Justice Freedman made this particular recommendation in his report, and is it not a fact that when I said I thought there had been encouraging developments I was referring to the negotiations between the railway unions and the railways but not in the field generally about which the hon. member is speaking?

Mr. Orlikow: Of course Mr. Justice Freedman said that he thought they should try to negotiate these things. I agree that there may have been encouraging developments, but what did take place in that industry is only a sample of the kind of thing which other industries will have to face in the future if corrective measures are not adopted. This same kind of situation brought about the problems which have been created by the longshoremen's work stoppage.

What Mr. Justice Freedman said was that since it is not likely that voluntary agreement can be obtained through negotiation, legislation is necessary. I will quote the relevant sections of his report for the benefit of the minister if he is not as familiar with them as he ought to be.