

*Pacific Coast Longshoremen Dispute*

was so obvious a negotiator or mediator should be appointed. Why was a mediator not appointed immediately to end the slow down and tie-up that is confronting Canada? As the previous speaker suggested, this situation is in fact creating a national emergency.

I read in an article in the *Globe and Mail* today that box cars loaded with wheat are backing up all across the prairies, and that all the sidings are becoming filled. I have heard reports that perishable goods are not being unloaded and that there are 45 ships tied up at docks on the west coast, either loaded or empty. One report recently said that ships had arrived on the west coast to pick up grain but left because they could not afford to be tied up there.

The *Western Producer* of November 10 reported that the wheat board is having to pay huge demurrage charges because boats are not being loaded and facilities are not being used to capacity. In recent years the Vancouver port has become a very important one in respect of our export commodities, particularly grain. Last year something like two thirds or half of Canadian wheat exports moved through that port. In spite of these facts the minister and the government plead with us to have patience; yet they do not know what to do.

The last time the minister was out there he was told to leave, but he is going back out again. I believe that to be a typical decision on the part of this shilly-shallying government. When it took office it was suggested that we could expect 60 days of decision. During that time they made so many mistakes they decided not to make any decisions after, and have made none since. The minister now asks us how he can appoint a mediator. A year ago when we were faced with a dockworkers strike in Vancouver we argued in this house and across the country that a transport mediator should be appointed to facilitate, organize and co-ordinate transportation on the west coast. After that strike was settled and grain started to move the government thought it had done the right thing.

While the government did appoint a transportation co-ordinator and sent him to the west coast to bring some efficiency to the handling of grain out there, they did so two or three months late. Three weeks have now passed since this tie-up began and we now urge the government to take action at this time. Let us not wait until we are two months too late.

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

The export of grain is of tremendous importance to Canada's balance of payments, to world trade and to farmers throughout western Canada who depend upon the shipment of grain. I do not wish to sound like a western farmer who is concerned only with the movement of grain, but we know that the export of wheat in the past few years has been of tremendous help to Canada's trade position. We also know what this has done for Canada's balance of payments position. During the last five years the sale of wheat has bailed the economy of Canada out of difficulty.

The minister says he is sorry but he does not know what to do. Never before has it been so obvious that a mediator should be appointed. Representatives of the Canada Labour Relations Board have suggested that this union cannot be recognized because foremen belong to it, yet union representatives say they need these foremen to organize their operations.

A commission should be appointed at this time to examine the act setting up the Canada Labour Relations Board and decide whether it should be changed. Something must be done immediately to get these men back to work so these boats can be loaded and unloaded. Until that happens our economic condition will not be normal. The minister can say that the employers told him he was not needed, and that the employees told him he was not needed, but let me tell the minister that the Canadian public needs him. We need his efforts to keep our economy in balance.

Either the minister or an appointed mediator should have stayed on the west coast last week whether or not the employers and the employees agreed. These people should have been brought together and kept together in order that a solution could be found. The minister should have indicated that the labour relations act was to be amended. The minister should not have just given the impression he is trying to settle a little dispute. Naturally the parties told him to go back to Ottawa. The Canadian public I am sure wanted him to stay and the Canadian wheat farmers wanted him to stay, or appoint someone who could get these two sides together.

● (12:40 p.m.)

The Canadian public and the Canadian Wheat Board would have said, "Stay there, and get a mediator who can bring the two sides together". They would have offered to amend the act setting up the Canada Labour Relations Board, because we cannot afford to have an economic tie-up at such an important