

is a flat increase in the wage rate. Therefore, in the present instance while the request of the applicants is for an allowance for board, it is in effect a request for an increase in the wage rates, and as such, falls within the terms of P.C. 7440.

It seems to me it would be better, instead of stringing the employees along, to use the language of the street, and allowing them to think that they will get something in this way, for the Department of Labour or the Department of Munitions and Supply, or both, to tell the representatives of these labour organizations that there is no use in their applying for a board, that under order in council P.C. 7440 it is illegal for a board to give an increase in wages. It is an amazing fact. I have brought to the attention of this house several times during the last twelve months the lack of labour representation on the war boards apart from the national labour supply council. This is the only war board set up on which there was a representative of labour, and we find that this representative is used by the government to beat down the wages and impair the conditions of employees instead of helping them. I submit to the Minister of Labour that he give this matter careful consideration. It is, as I said before, nothing more than a farce to have a condition of affairs such as this. If it continues sooner or later labour will become so exasperated that not only a small number of workers as in this case, but a large number, will be involved in labour disputes and may to a very great extent interfere with war production.

Mr. McLARTY: I do not think I shall require many minutes to reply to the remarks of the hon. member. I quite agree with him that the reason why section 10 of the order in council was put in was to obviate the very thing that happened at Valleyfield. There is no question about it. The labour supply council went into the matter thoroughly, and it was their idea that putting that clause in, and allowing a memorandum to be submitted to the board by any interested department, was the farthest that the government should go. That condition was not observed in Valleyfield. I did not know of it at the time the board was sitting. Had an application been made for a rehearing, it might have been necessary to grant it, but no such application was made. I can assure the hon. member that the situation will not recur, because it is not in accordance with the section of the order in council.

Mr. MacINNIS: This is not the first instance in which the activities of Mr. Chase have been drawn to my attention. When the

[Mr. MacInnis.]

application of the employees of National Steel Car Corporation was before the Department of Labour for a board, Mr. Chase was sent, either by the Department of Labour or by the Department of Munitions and Supply, to Hamilton. The men understood that he had the granting of the request for a board with him. When he got to Hamilton, however, he told the employees that they could not get a board, and that even if they did, they could not get an award because of order in council P.C. 7440. That is the information I have from representatives of the employees of the National Steel Car Corporation. If the minister has information on the discussions which took place at the trades and labour congress at Vancouver last September, he will know as well as I do the statements that were made there with regard to Mr. Chase's activities respecting wages in the shipyards. I think it is time the Department of Labour told Mr. Chase where he gets off at.

Mr. McLARTY: I can assure the hon. member that Mr. Chase was not sent to Hamilton by the Department of Labour. I do not know what representations he made, but if he made a representation that they should not have a board he was certainly mistaken, because they have a board. I do not know what representations he made in Hamilton, nor do I know the purpose of his visit. Certainly I can assure the hon. member that he was not sent by the Department of Labour.

Mr. GILLIS: May I ask the minister who Mr. Chase is, where he comes from, how he came to get into the department as a representative of labour, and who recommended him? His activities have not been in the best interests of organized labour.

Mr. McLARTY: I can hardly be expected to say who recommended Mr. Chase for that department. It is not a department over which I have any jurisdiction whatever. I believe he was a member of one of the railroad brotherhoods.

An hon. MEMBER: The locomotive engineers.

Mr. McLARTY: I was not sure, but one of those. When the war supply board was originally set up, he came to Ottawa, I believe, and while he was not a member of the board he was active in labour relations. What his antecedents are, or the recommendations that were made respecting him, I do not know.

Mr. COLDWELL: He was not recommended to the government by organized labour as its representative. That, I think, is the point which is being made.