

our very deep appreciation to all the House of Commons staff who have so willingly and with dedication stayed on the job.

An hon. Member: They did not go on strike.

Mr. O'Sullivan: They provide a shining example which might well be followed by hon. members who sit on the treasury benches. I think in particular of the *Hansard* staff, the protective staff, the officers at the Table, the sound system operators, the translators and those who operate the transportation system to the Confederation Building. We also wish to recognize that some especially diligent members of the press gallery have been on hand to report our proceedings.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Don't forget the cafeteria staff.

Mr. O'Sullivan: With the help of these people and any others I may have overlooked, including the staff of the cafeteria, an issue of great importance has been debated, the purpose of this chamber has been fulfilled and the people of Canada duly served by the House of Commons. On behalf of the official opposition and, I would hope, on behalf of all hon. members, I wish to acknowledge their invaluable assistance and thank them deeply.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (0320)

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether this is a late hour or an early hour, but I want to impress upon you how composed and dignified you look as you grace this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Towers: At the same time I should like to impress upon this chamber, and the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Maine) who has just spoken, that after several hours of debate he still does not comprehend what we are talking about. When he talks about demurrage charges he is talking about peanuts. Out in western Canada we are talking about millions of dollars.

Grain Shipments

The points have been well made by my colleagues on this side of the House. I do not intend to reiterate them, but I trust there is some member on the other side among the few who are left who will take this message to the cabinet ministers who have been absent from the chamber for several hours. If there is one thing of the utmost importance it is that it is the responsibility of the backbenchers on the government side to impress upon the cabinet that this is a very important issue. We trust they will not allow us to get into this position again where we have to ask for adjournment of the business of the House to protect the interests of the Canadian people in the House of Commons, the highest court in the land.

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I would most assuredly like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. O'Sullivan). We certainly appreciate the services that we have received from all the members of the House of Commons staff. I associate myself with those portions of his remarks.

However, I would like to say something to those hon. members who have given us good advice by telling us what to tell our caucus, what to tell our cabinet ministers and the government. Let me assure them that what we will say is that we stood as Liberals, and we stood in favour of the right of the individual to strike. We stood as Liberals and as responsible people. We honoured the strikers, respected them, and indeed solved the strike jointly with them. We stood as Liberals who said equally and together, not differently, that we understood where our government stood. Not only did we defend our ministers but we respected them, and we hope they are prepared and ready for the work to come tomorrow, because they work very hard and long into the evenings.

We want hon. members opposite to know that we tolerated them and listened to them. But we did not agree with them for one moment.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): According to section (13) of Standing Order 26 I am satisfied that the debate has been concluded and I therefore declare the motion carried. The House stands adjourned until two o'clock p.m. this day, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 3.26 a.m. the House adjourned, without question put.