

*Government Orders*

their work as nurses is much more difficult. In fact, it is impossible without the assistance of nurses aids.

The dietitians understand that their work is impossible and meaningless without the support of the dietary assistants who are among the workers on strike. The nurses know that if there are no clean sheets to put on the bed, their patients will not be healthy and will not be comfortable.

They came here yesterday because they have seen those workers on the picket line for two weeks in freezing temperatures. They know them personally. They know how much the families suffer from lack of adequate income. They wanted to show their opposition to this piece of legislation, and their support for the government's return to the bargaining table, where it has not been since Sunday afternoon, and has not successfully been for over two years. They want this strike settled so things in their hospital can get back to normal.

They talked to me about the cost of keeping that hospital running without these workers. The cost being incurred by the government and the wastage of taxpayers' dollars to keep the hospital running without the hospital services workers exceeds the cost of settling the strike.

The Minister of Justice said: "If my hon. friend from Ottawa thinks that veterans should be inconvenienced that way, then I hope members have it in their hearts to think about other people." I challenge this government to think about other people. I challenge the Minister of Justice not to sit there and lecture me about thinking about other people. The Minister of Justice said: "I see some members here who represent ridings with people at risk on the seas, and I don't know how they are going to face their people back home if there are any accidents." The Minister of Justice knows perfectly well that the ships' crews workers on strike, those people represented by my colleagues about whom he was talking, have gone above and beyond the call of duty. They have ignored the heartless and arrogant way in which they have been treated by this government in not reaching a settlement. They have ignored all that and put the welfare of their fellow citizens first. They have kept themselves ready 24 hours a day, leaving home to be where they could be ready on a moment's notice to put

out to sea, whatever the weather, and to respond to any emergency calls.

• (1550)

There are people working full time through this strike because they figured out that that was necessary to ensure the safety of those who put out to sea. Do you know what they are doing? They are not collecting their salaries, but are turning them over to the Public Service Alliance. They are accepting strike pay just as their other colleagues who are on strike because they do not want the fact that they are working to protect the public to put them in a better economic situation than those who are on strike and fighting for their rights.

That kind of self-sacrifice has been evident in other ways throughout this strike. It shows that the workers have a better understanding of the needs of their colleagues than the government. The west coast workers have said that they are prepared to accept a wage increase in this contract that is below what the rest of the Public Service is getting, provided their colleagues on the east coast, who take the same risks and have the same responsibilities, get the same wage.

They know that it is not right that one person's life is considered more important and more valuable than another. They know it is not right that if you live in Halifax the responsibilities and the risks you take are worth less than if you live in Vancouver. They know that able seamen in the private sector are now getting well over 40 per cent more than they or their colleagues are getting. They want to see those inequities corrected.

If the Minister of Justice wants to talk about those members who have constituents at sea and to tell them that they "just might think about that", he should be aware that they have just thought about that, thank you very much. I think it is the government who should just think about that.

Then the Minister of Justice chose to talk about Kingston and chose to point out to the members on this side of the House that Kingston is on the Seaway. We know that. We have the member for Kingston and the Islands and the government does not any more.

He pointed out that there is the odd big ship going by Kingston, just in case the members for Ottawa do not know that. Well, we know that because we talk to our colleagues on this side of the House.