Government Orders

engines and abandon their automobiles. In that way the bridge could not be lifted and ships could not get in and out of the harbour. The reality is that the police moved in on Friday morning and told those people who stopped their vehicles on the bridge that if they did not move their vehicles the police would tow them away and they would have to pay the towing charge, the storage charge, and be fined for obstructing a public throughway.

What was at stake here? What was at stake really was that there were two ships sitting out in the lake ready to come into the harbour, there were 10 ships scheduled to come through the canal over the weekend, and a handful of people were going to bring this economic unit to an absolute standstill. They were going to say: "Your ships cannot go in and out because we cannot get an agreement, or our union is not able to come to an agreement with the Treasury Board".

I object very much to that sort of conduct. Aside from that, I have had people call me, telling me that they are in the produce business and had produce in tractor trailers held up at the bridge. They could not get through the bridge at Niagara Falls and Fort Erie and in Detroit. Therefore, the fruit was rotting in some of the containers. I have had manufacturers call me and say they had materials tied up in containers in the customs warehouses around the Toronto–Hamilton area. They said if those containers were not released, they would have to close down their operations.

General Motors was bringing in automotive parts by air to the Oshawa airport. One manufacturer in Burlington called me and said that if he did not get his materials, Ford Motor Company would have to close down two production lines in Talbotville and one in Michigan that produced a certain model of Ford automobile.

These are just a few in my immediate area. Then, we go across the country and look into the position of the grain farmers in western Canada. What is happening to them is that we begin to see how devastating this is to people in the farming community. They just have no opportunity to do very much about it.

We have pressures on us from manufacturers, farmers and wholesale and retail people who are telling us that they want this matter settled. If we cannot come to an agreement, they say: "Legislate them back to work." If

they do not go back to work, we are in a very serious condition.

The government has been negotiating with PSAC for 90 days. It was 60 days of straight negotiation and 30 days in conciliation, and it has not been able to come to an agreement with PSAC. It has made an agreement with four bargaining units within the Public Service and there are several more ready to announce within the next few days. We think that we have bargained in good faith and done everything we can to bring this matter to a resolution.

I am here to tell you that if we cannot get an agreement, then the legislation will go forward and they will be legislated back to work under the zero, three and three.

There has been a misconception. I will not call it a lie. I will call it a misconception. Perhaps it was planned as part of the tactics of those who oppose what we are trying to do. Zero, three and three covers everybody. It covers the Prime Minister, cabinet, members of Parliament and all agencies, governments, Crown corporations, judges, RCMP, the Canadian Armed Forces and everyone who receives a cheque for services from the federal government.

The lie that is being pushed out there is that: "You guys fattened your pocketbook and left us out there. Now, you are going to pay yourselves off our wages."

Anyone who knows anything about the Public Service of Canada and its 390,000 employees knows that there are dozens of bargaining units, each with a closing date. Zero, three and three applies to each one of those units when that agreement expires. That is just plain common sense. Maybe some of them would like to have all those agreements occur on one date. Maybe that is possible. I do not know whether it is desirable or not.

I think we should study it to see if we want it to go that way or not. I do not think we do. I know that we cannot, as a government, continue to allow this strike to go on and allow the services to be denied to the people of Canada. We have to come to an agreement to settle this.

Take the people travelling out of some of our major airports. We settled with the air traffic controllers. They settled on the basis of zero, three and three but the entrance into their place of work is being obstructed by