

*Ford Motor Plant Strike*

Mr. COLDWELL: If latitude is not given, there is but one recourse open to those who feel strongly in this matter, and that is, a few minutes later, to move the adjournment of the house for the consideration of a matter of urgent public importance. We know that there is some pressing business to come before the house, and we hesitate to take that step.

Mr. ROSE: May I ask the minister two questions? First, did the Ford representative state that he will not accept union security because there is no union security on the statute books? Second, may I ask whether or not Mr. Blackwell hinted at any legislation along the lines of giving the workers union security?

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend apparently has a pipeline in the wrong direction.

Mr. HOMUTH: It is running up instead of down.

Mr. MITCHELL: Obviously that question cannot be answered. It is a matter of good faith and of character. You cannot disclose what takes place in a conference of that description. There has to be some decency and confidence in respect of such things, and that goes for both sides, the trade unions and the employers.

Mr. KNOWLES: May I ask a question of the minister, following the exchange of comments between himself and the member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell)? The suggestion was made by the leader of this group that further consideration be given the appointment of a controller pending the settlement of the dispute. The minister did not take too kindly to the suggestion, and asked if we had some formula to suggest. I would ask him this question: Is not the formula suggested by the leader of this group parallel at least to the formula adopted by the minister in connection with the packing house situation, and is not this just as serious, with the winter coming on? Would he not give further consideration to this matter?

Mr. HOMUTH: A different thing entirely.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): May I ask a question of the minister? I am anxious to say to him how deeply I appreciate his efforts to settle this matter. I do not want any doubt about that, and I am not trying to be smart. Does he think that when parties separate on this principle of union security it can ever be a matter of conciliation? In other words, is it not something in connection with which some government, provincial or other, whoever has the authority, must by law lay down a policy? One side says, "We will not look at union

security"; the unions say, "We will not work without union security." I ask that question as simply as I can because I know the minister is very able in these matters. Does he not think it may have gone beyond conciliation and may perhaps require some government action?

Mr. MITCHELL: I would say this. You cannot legislate on the basis of threats. I am not speaking to my hon. friend when I say that. I know he appreciates that.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Louder.

Mr. MITCHELL: I say you cannot legislate on the basis of threats by any group in the community.

Mr. KNOWLES: Threats both ways.

Mr. MITCHELL: I know what makes the clock tick. My hon. friend should read a primer on British institutions. May I say to the hon. member for Calgary West that industrial relations are the product of slow growth and I emphasized that the last time I spoke in the House of Commons. Some people will live to regret the speeches they made a week ago last Monday. I pointed out then that agreements were based on character. I am convinced of this, that if the approach were on that basis—and I believe we had this thing out of the fire yesterday—everyone will recognize that sooner or later these people have to sleep together, as we say in the trade union movement. I believe that if that had been the approach, and I say that from my experience in negotiations of this kind, these people would be at work in the next few days. We know of the factors on both sides of the river, and it is far better that they should meet together and come to an agreement mutually satisfactory, which would be lasting on both sides of the picture. I am convinced of that and I think that will be the outcome.

Mr. POULIOT: My good friend the Minister of Labour did well in his attempts to settle the Windsor strike, and spoke highly of Mr. Justice O'Connor, who has been made conciliator. The minister asked an hon. member in the C.C.F. group if that hon. member could suggest anyone who could help the minister in the matter. I have a suggestion to offer now, and it is that he should seek the assistance of the committee of this house on industrial relations. I believe the minister would find there quite as good assistance as he would receive from anyone in his department. My suggestion to the minister is that the committee be called as soon as possible, so that he may have the assistance of its

[Mr. Graydon.]