

● (0030)

When I speak of the transportation and rail system, I refer to the rail system down in the Interlake part of the Churchill constituency. In an average year, the lines in the Arborg and Hodgson area carry somewhere in the area of five million bushels of grain. The Riverton and Gypsumville lines are protected from abandonment until the year 2000. The Arborg and Hodgson lines, however, are only protected until 1976, at which time the situation will be evaluated. This situation should be looked at closely because farmers in the area have no idea how they are going to get their grain to market after 1976 if the line is abandoned.

Some very active people at the port of Churchill and in the province of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, in 1973 formed the Port Churchill Development Board to stimulate and develop two-way trade to the port. Their objective is to reduce the port's dependence on grain. We cannot seem to get the government to understand, although we have been trying for 30 years, that in Churchill we have a seaport in the middle of Canada that has not been utilized to its full capacity. The Port Churchill Development Board has the objective of encouraging the growth of other exports thus making this a viable inland seaport that should be used to its fullest capacity.

Let us keep the record clean and keep strikes out, Mr. Speaker. A record of 44 strikes a year is going to be hard to beat for any seaport.

[Translation]

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Madam Speaker, I would like to contribute very briefly but sincerely to this debate to move some suggestions in order that the government finally take the necessary measures to avoid such conflicts.

Madam Speaker, the government has finally recognized the importance, not to say the emergency, of an intervention on that problem of prime importance for all Canadians. But once again, it reveals its total incapacity to apply the necessary measures.

We all know, Madam Speaker, that such a conflict causes considerable losses in the Canadian economy. I do not think it is useful to enumerate them all, since as the debate goes on, I realize that several members have discussed them. In the interest of all Canadians and for the welfare of Canada, the operations that have just started again, are certainly likely to remedy many shortcomings. Surely no member here this evening questions the fact that the strike of the blue collars has given rise to various troubles in the community. At this very moment, it is not difficult to realize that the conflict has had disastrous results. Who will again pay for the damages? The Canadian people.

I do not intend, Madam Speaker, to blame the poor workers involved in this conflict. On the contrary, we only have to blame our present economic system. The workers are at its mercy and are once again the victims to the same extent as raw milk producers in eastern Canada. Like the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), I want to be the spokesman of those producers facing production problems. I ask all eastern and western members to support the

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demands of those producers which seem to me quite justified under the circumstances.

Madam Speaker, it is not difficult to be convinced. I therefore urge all the members to consider honestly what is going on in our country. We will see strikes multiply at a frightening rate which, in the end, is not likely to alleviate dissension, strife and the causes of the inflation that is rampant across the country.

Madam Speaker, I think seriously that the government must take a stand to stop any dispute. They must also take valid means to avoid similar situations.

Furthermore, I agree that this is an extremely difficult problem and that it would be all the easier to accuse the government. But this will certainly not solve the problem because we have been the victims of an outdated system for many years.

The government must solve not only current strifes, but also put forward legislation to prevent similar occurrences. I will keep saying this.

We are moving in a vicious circle, where inflation forces workers to demand higher wages. If they don't get them, what do they do? Their only way out is to go on strike. We have a good example in current and menacing strikes.

I firmly believe the time has come for the government to take their responsibilities and endorse Social Credit policies. We are convinced that our solutions will promote closer cooperation between money capital and labour capital. It is truly important that we put a stop to the battles that have been going on between these two kinds of capital for a number of years. We feel they are getting more numerous and more serious all the time.

Before I conclude, I would offer this government two suggestions. The first one should foster better employer-employee relations. It is simply a policy or system under which workers would share in profits. This would ensure worker participation in Canadian business development. Surely, this solution will force its way through if we are to make full use of all our resources.

The second solution is the guaranteed income policy formulated by our party. This would be a tremendous step in the settlement of the problems we now face, because it would give workers higher income, without any cost push effect on prices.

I believe the time has come for the present government to listen to our party's suggestions and theories.

● (0040)

[English]

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, I congratulate the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) for presenting his motion. The Canadian people are behind him on this issue. I find it strange that the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) is not present this evening. He is always asking the opposition for advice, and when we want to give it to him he has gone home to bed.

An hon. Member: That's where you should be.

Mr. McKenzie: The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) suggested that members of the