

Some hon. Members: No.

An hon. Member: Howard is expediting things again.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: I know that hon. members are tired and it is hard for anyone to be attentive.

[Translation]

—as much attention as possible, but it is clear to the Chair that someone is opposed and does not want unanimous consent.

[English]

For the third time I will ask whether the committee gives unanimous consent to the request by the hon. member to withdraw the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, because there seems to be some doubt I would ask you to put the question. In other words, I do not give my consent.

An hon. Member: Don't ask us for consent again.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Those in favour of the motion will please rise.

Amendment (Mr. Andre) negatived: Yeas nil, nays 126.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: I declare the motion lost.

Clause 16 as amended agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Schedules A, B, C and D agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East) thereupon moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

● (0250)

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should, I suppose, at this hour ask the indulgence of the House.

An hon. Member: Be humble.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words very seriously. As we have indicated, my colleagues and I are disappointed that the bill which has now been carried in committee and which will, of course, with the support of the other three parties in this House, be carried into law, is a great deal less just to the people concerned than it ought to have been. Therefore we will, in line with the position we have taken throughout, vote against the bill.

I said at the very beginning of this exercise that my colleagues and I were as aware as anyone else of the hardships which the present emergency has created for many sections of Canada and of the need at some time like the present for parliament to act to remove the cause of those hardships. But I repeat what I have said—repetition

Railway Operations Act

in this House is not unusual—that precisely because parliament found it necessary to take rights away from Canadians that the law gives them to stop people from striking when they are on strike, to prevent them from going out on strike which they have a right to do by law, such as the employees in the shopcrafts and running trades, when parliament takes on that responsibility it has a duty to be fair and just to the people whose rights it takes away.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): How about the little people who get hurt?

Mr. Lewis: I suggest that the bill which is now to be given third reading is not fair and just to the people who are being penalized by it. None the less, it is a mark of our democratic process and of this parliamentary process that the bill has been improved. I know that in one respect the members on the government benches are unhappy with the change from 30 cents to 34 cents, and so on; but in many other respects, as a result of the recommendations made by members of the opposition parties, by members of the Conservative party and members of my party, other clauses in the bill have provided greater security for the employees involved in the strike and who were laid off. I have watched on television, I have listened on the radio, and I have seen exhibited in the confines of parliament the bitterness and frustration of the people involved in the strike which this bill seeks to end. I heard them on radio, on television and in person yesterday chant that they will not go back.

Many times in this House, many of us have been in a minority on a given subject. We have lost the fight—not only my colleagues and myself but other members of this House. We have lost a cause for which we have fought and which we have considered to be of immense importance to us, to our ideals, to Canada and to its people. But we have learned to accept the result, the democratic result, the decision of this parliament.

I can appreciate the frustration and the anger of those who are being affected by this law and who are to be ordered to go back to work under conditions not fully acceptable to them. But what they do will be their decision. I want to emphasize that in our view, and I know in the view of every member of this House, all Canadians have to accept the decision of parliament. The cause of the strikers and the cause of the employees will not be served by those who set out deliberately to defy the law that has been passed, even though that law is not entirely fair to them. Because it is not entirely fair to the people concerned in the railways, we cannot but vote against the bill on third reading.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I merely want to say on behalf of our party that we hope this is the last time we are called upon to pass this type of legislation, because we feel there is a better way.

● (0300)

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say very briefly that we will support this bill, but with reluctance, since this is not a democratic or proper way of