

all his influence, both as Minister of Labour and as trade unionist, to get a settlement of this dispute.

Mr. MITCHELL: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made a long speech, and it occurred to me that I might, in reply, read this document into the record. Let me say to the hon. member for Vancouver East that I cannot understand why any employer would find fault with any man belonging to an international trade union. I imagine nobody finds fault with bankers having international affiliations, or with members of service clubs which have their headquarters in some other country. It has been my experience that the greatest stability prevails where you have a strong international organization, whether it be in labour or in any other field of endeavour. I think this can be truthfully said, that in contributions to good fellowship between Canada and the United States the labour organizations have done more than any other organization in existence. I cannot go along with those who would criticize any individual for belonging to an international trade union.

There is no question that this has been a difficult dispute, but I would remind the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that the Minister of Labour does not call people out on strike. That is not his function. His function is to endeavour to settle strikes once they occur. There is only one federal minister of labour in Canada, and I have been in the labour movement long enough to know that he is invariably the target for abuse from both sides. It does not matter how careful he may be in any expression of opinion he may give. To abuse him is the easiest thing imaginable; the practice is as old, I was going to say, as Methuselah, certainly since the inception of the Department of Labour in this country. I think I have appointed more commissioners in this dispute than in any dispute since I have been Minister of Labour. I have a long and close relationship with the typographical union. I grew up with them in the city of Hamilton; I carry a card in an international organization and attended their international conventions before my hon. friend, I suppose, ever carried a card in the organization.

It has been my steady policy as minister to endeavour to be impartial.

Mr. KNOWLES: That is all I ask.

Mr. MITCHELL: Yes, I know; but I think that if in the Department of Labour the scales are ever tipped, they should incline towards the labour organization. We have done everything we humanly could to settle

[Mr. MacInnis.]

this dispute. We have appointed these commissioners, and that is why at the moment I am not going to say too much. Mr. Justice Richards is acting on my behalf in an endeavour to bring the top parties together in conformity with the recommendations of the Lett commission, which sat in Vancouver. I do not think I should go any further than that. I could read this record if my hon. friend wishes to hear it. It is a little different from his own, but it is factual. It was not drafted by myself, but by the officers of my department; but in view of the fact that parliament is proroguing to-day I do not think I shall read it.

It is not fair always to accuse the minister of being this or that. Let the case rest on its factual basis. It would be a change if once in a while they would blame somebody else. I should be happy to see the day when the Minister of Labour was right in even some people's point of view. But I believe when the record is read it will be found that this administration has settled more disputes than any previous administration in the history of the dominion. It is quite true that sometimes a dispute will go off the rails, but I am proud of our conciliation service, and I am proud, notwithstanding the opinions of some other persons, of the contributions which my department has made to industrial stability in the last five very difficult years.

Mr. KNOWLES: I am not satisfied with the broad generalizations that the minister has made. He has not given any reply to the factual statements I have made about the basic issues in this dispute and the way in which the whole matter has been distorted. I make a strong appeal to him on behalf of his erstwhile friends in this union that he says he has had a long association with, to realize how deeply they feel about the matter. They believe that he should and I urge him to make a really serious attempt to bring the parties together and get this dispute settled.

Item agreed to.

Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940—

117. Governments' contribution to unemployment insurance fund, \$12,500,000.

Mr. LENNARD: Yesterday I received a telegram from Hamilton which reads as follows:

On behalf of Hamilton striking war veterans of Stelco, Westinghouse and Firestone we are firmly convinced that section five, subsection (d) of the Veterans Rehabilitation Act affecting veterans involved in labour disputes is a gross discrimination under which veterans are