

West Coast Ports Operations Bill

he could do so in the authority of his office. I believe this would be a worthwhile bill in that event.

Mr. O'Connell: As Minister of Labour, I do not want to accept any or all of the allegations which have been made about the employers and any grievances which may have arisen in their relationships with the men, but it was my intention to contact the employers, as I have been in touch with the head of the union, to suggest to them that in the interest of order, stability and the best interest of Canada at this moment, it would be good for them to observe the spirit and the provisions of the collective agreement.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Barnett: During the period in which this discussion has been going on I have had an opportunity to have a look at the former agreement which has been under discussion. Certainly, there is nothing in that agreement as I read it to indicate that it has any continuing force or effect beyond the period of the opening of negotiations. The minister has given us an assurance, but I believe it would be quite useful, and certainly more satisfactory to some of us—and this could be done I would think quite shortly now as I look at the clock—if before we complete our consideration of this legislation the minister could inform members of this House that the employers involved have stated they will give him that assurance. If the minister could announce to the committee that the employers will regard the agreement as being in effect, and will not go into the question of what the minister calls allegations about what may have been going on, then I think the assurance he has just given us would have real significance. We could then perhaps continue the discussion on this bill without having to go away from here wondering whether, in fact, what has been suggested was a necessary prelude to the agreement continuing in force, namely strike action on the part of the union members which might have to take place in order to put the agreement into practical operation again.

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Chairman, I know we are looking for the same objective, but I do not think I should go that next step and ask for something in writing. It was my intention to be in touch with the employers as soon as this is passed, and I am quite prepared to say I expect that the mediation process will be effective.

• (1250)

Clause agreed to.

Clause 16 agreed to.

Schedule I agreed to.

Schedule II agreed to.

Schedule III agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could agree to suspend the sitting and return at the call of the Chair after the other place has completed its discussions.

[Mr. Lewis.]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the suggestion made by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) that we rise and return, perhaps after two o'clock or at two o'clock, but I presume it will be some time after two o'clock, at the call of the Chair, is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 12:55 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 4.45 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-231, an act to provide for the resumption and continuation of longshoring and grain handling operations and operations related to longshoring or grain handling at ports on the west coast of Canada, without any amendment.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following communication:

Government House, Ottawa
1 September, 1972

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Emmett M. Hall, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber at 4.45 p.m. today, the 1st day of September, for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a bill and proroguing the fourth session of the twenty-eighth parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your obedient servant,
André Garneau
Colonel

Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.