

Public Service Collective Bargaining

level of management within our social, political and economic institutions, advance at the cry of liberty and ride rough-shod over the most sacred rights of millions of workers, if not the population as a whole.

They start by deducting compulsory dues from the workers' pay cheques, in order to guarantee salaries of \$25,000, \$35,000, \$45,000 or more to prominent union leaders—after all, one must make a living—without guaranteeing anything in return. I have had an opportunity to note this fact in many contacts with unions, such as the railway workers union, etc.

The hon. member for Hochelaga said that never had a union leader used his influence to call a strike. The hon. member should talk to some former strikers of the Aluminum Company in Arvida. Let him suggest to them to strike again and he will see what the workers think of strikes organized by some union leaders.

We are against all strikes, just as the great majority of workers who are forced to use that very dangerous weapon today. That is why, on consideration of this bill, we are asking the 265 hon. members to study the possibility of setting up immediately a permanent non political commission having the necessary powers to ward off that national evil forever. Thus, while sparing our country the experience of the socialist countries, we will guarantee to the workers their rights, while admitting the rights of the employers, and especially while considering as most sacred the rights of society in general.

Once again, what our people are wishing for is to live in peace and security, guaranteeing our citizens their freedom of action. To achieve that, everyone must accept at the start the principle of authority which is seriously threatened today.

Anarchy has always led to blood baths; let us keep in mind that those who accept the principle have already agreed to the unfortunate consequences. The premonitory sign of all this is when you hear the cry: Down with the authority.

Mr. Chairman, are there not signs in some areas of the country? This is only a warning that I give in passing and I urge you to read the headlines of certain newspapers, to watch television, the perfect haunt of some well-known socialists. Look at some of them parading with banners which, in the name of freedom, insult established authority.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

Mr. Chairman, in the presence of such chaos, I think we could repeat this old saying: "Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name."

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Chairman, I should like to amplify the few remarks I made last Friday on clause 36. I wish to make it abundantly clear at the outset that so far as the public service commission that is being set up is concerned I have no criticism of the conscientious and constructive work that committee did in connection with these three bills. These bills are extremely technical and of course the livelihood of over 200,000 public servants is bound up with these bills which deal with this very sensitive field. The work of the committee has resulted in very bold and enlightened legislation which extends for the first time the right of collective bargaining to civil servants as well as the right to political participation, with some reservations, on a national basis.

The man who was the catalyst in respect of this piece of legislation, Mr. Heeney, prepared a report entitled "Report of the Preparatory Committee on Collective Bargaining", to which reference was made the other day. Mr. Heeney testified before the committee and, as indicated on page 346 of the committee evidence, referred to these three bills as revolutionary in concept. Near the bottom of page 346 Mr. Heeney is reported as having said:

These measures would vest new and important responsibilities in employee organizations and in the Treasury Board—

On page 347 Mr. Heeney refers to these bills again and is reported as having said:

—they would confer on organized employees a capacity—I am talking now of the present legislation before you—unmatched, I believe, in any public service of comparable size to protect their interests and improve their conditions of employment.

The minister himself in giving evidence before the committee, as reported at page 199, refers to the proposed legislation as introducing reforms in the internal administration of the public service which have only one parallel in our history, namely, the reforms brought about by the Civil Service Act of 1918. The debate on the Civil Service Act of 1918 lasted six days and was primarily concerned with ensuring security for the employees and removing the large degree of patronage which had bothered the public service up to that time. The general remarks which I may direct to this bill at this time are not directed against the committee or the