

*Labour Dispute at Montreal*

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a very few, short remarks on this most serious problem. I think what has developed in Montreal highlights the growing problems and difficulties which our country and the house have had to face in the past two or three years. It is not my intention to recriminate against the government, the shipping federation in Montreal or the trade unions, but for a long time I have been feeling that something of a very specific nature must be said, whether it is popular or unpopular.

The fact that we are discussing an urgent motion to adjourn highlights the problems and brings me to my feet. We have reached the stage now where the economy of Canada is being increasingly endangered by the inability of companies and trade unions to come together, and the failure of the government to intervene to bring the two parties together. Our position as a trading nation is being endangered by an expression of selfish interest by the particular groups concerned.

I am afraid that in this most serious problem which is now before us somehow or other, whether from the viewpoint of the employers or that of the employees, it must be made clear to all Canadians that in the interests of our economy if certain groups cannot get together, eventually parliament will be forced to act, although in my opinion it does not wish to act in regard to the free collective agreements in Montreal, Vancouver or anywhere else. Speaking as a former trade unionist and as a member of the New Democratic party, it seems to me I would not be acting as a responsible member of parliament, at a time when our economy is being endangered by lockouts, strikes and disagreements on interpretation, were I not to say that now is the time to tell everyone in Canada individually and collectively that we have to think more as Canadians and less as individual groups expressing their selfish interests.

I feel very strongly about having to rise and make the statement that I would be a completely irresponsible member of parliament if I did not say that we have reached the point when something like this must be said. Therefore I appeal to the minister of Labour through you, Mr. Speaker, for heaven's sake to try to bring the opposing groups in Montreal together both in their interests and in the interests of our trading position. Let the port of Montreal be opened as speedily as possible. Then, once it is opened, we

should immediately bring these groups together to see if we can bring to a halt this impeding of our Canadian economy.

• (12:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in the remarks of the last speaker, the hon. member for Vancouver East. When the hon. member referred to selfish interests, he neglected to name them. I do not know whether he meant the employers or the employees. Representing an agricultural constituency as I do, this situation does not concern me except that I should like the minister, in the course of his remarks, to say what effect it will have on the export of prairie grain, I am not so sure the effect on grain shipments is serious at the moment, but I recall the situation of a year ago which caused the loss of markets for prairie grain which meant so much to the economy of Canada.

I am quite sure the government, since they have no members from western Canada, will say they are not aware of this situation. However, it has been brought to their attention time and time again. I could almost repeat word for word the remarks of the hon. member for Kamloops when he was referring to the problems of the fruit growers. There are certain times of the year when the fruit crop has to be moved, otherwise it will spoil. The situation is not quite that serious with regard to grain, but it is a serious matter to western farmers if this grain does not move.

If we do not take advantage of the markets which are available at certain times of the year, then we will have lost those markets. I suggest to the minister that at the present time Canada is in difficulty because we have lost grain markets. This fact does not concern the grain producer on the prairies alone but is of concern to the whole of Canada.

The hon. member for Vancouver East did say this situation presented a danger to the economy of Canada, and I certainly agree with him. In fact I would go further. I suggest that about a year ago, I believe on June 8, a bill was introduced by a member of the New Democratic party, and why it was withdrawn is beyond me. The bill introduced by the hon. member for Skeena was entitled "An act to provide for the resumption of loading and unloading at the ports of Three Rivers, Montreal and Quebec." For some reason or other this bill was withdrawn on June 14. The leader of that party appeared on