

*Labour Relations***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. I interrupt the proceedings of the House to inform hon. members that pursuant to Standing Order 40 the questions to be raised tonight at the time of the adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt)—Environmental Affairs—Reason for failure to adopt standards for asbestos fibres under clean air act—Possible protest from United States; the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—Air Transport—Suggested separate ministry for civil air transport—Government position; the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan)—Income Tax—Decentralization of data processing—Possible establishment of office in Atlantic region.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO
RESOLVE LABOUR PROBLEMS**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Dionne (Kamouraska):

That this House deplores the fact that the government has neglected to make legislative changes to remedy present problems at all levels of labour activity.

This neglect has resulted in:

- (1) a climate of instability and dissatisfaction for workers and the working class in general;
- (2) the toleration of a system which allows certain union figures to wield powers exceeding their responsibilities;
- (3) the toleration of illegal strikes and work stoppages initiated on any pretext which paralyze or even destroy the economy and the social progress of vast fields of activity;
- (4) a continued opposition between employees and employers instead of the development of mutual aid policies.

To remedy this situation, parliament should:

- (1) pass measures granting fiscal advantages to employees and employers to restore their motivation;
- (2) effect stimulating measures to increase work attractiveness and professional satisfaction;
- (3) urge corporations to set up employee shareholding and profit sharing programs;
- (4) create labour tribunals made up of experts in employer-employee relations and empowered to set adequate working conditions for restoring mutual understanding and preventing conflicts.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this debate to stress some features in the brilliant demonstration by my colleague for Kamouraska (Mr. Dionne).

Mr. Speaker, my party is privileged to show once more, with a certain amount of courage, some of the ills that, unfortunately, there is a tendency to ignore. The present

[Mr. Hogan.]

labour situation is so clear, so obvious, that it is not longer possible to be satisfied with suggestions that problems are complex, that there are no miracle solutions, and so forth. To keep on saying this is simply to admit the situation. The present nightmare in certain areas, and especially in Quebec, is so horrendous that the time has come to wake up and find solutions. It is all the more easy for us to talk about it as we have been referring for years to this extremely bad situation, at the risk of being labelled at times anti-labour and anti-worker, which is totally inaccurate. When we take such positions, it is to defend the worker himself who is being mocked in the process. If this kind of condoning goes on, if the government in particular remains negligent as we feel it is in that area, our democracy might be over and done with.

Concerning the second consequence of the neglect we refer to, the toleration of a system whereby certain labour leaders wield powers exceeding their responsibilities, we are now experiencing such a consequence of the failure of government leaders.

When certain labour leaders, specifically those who were responsible for gangsterism in James Bay, who in the course of simple labour conflicts caused tremendous property damage totalling over \$35 million, when these same individuals are expected to decide today whether or not the Olympic Games will be held in Montreal in 1976, is this not giving them a responsibility that is not theirs? Have these people not proved by their former behaviour that they are far from having the qualifications required to take such responsibilities?

Such is the situation, Mr. Speaker. Who in this House can now say whether the Olympic Games will be held in Montreal in 1976? Who can state positively that they will be held as planned and at the date which has been set? No one can say so, no one can be certain. Why? Because certain union people can decide otherwise. If this is democracy, Mr. Speaker, where is all this leading? If this is respecting the rights of labour, where is all this leading?

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to truly take our responsibilities and to truly defend those who need it. Mr. Speaker, have you noticed that the conflicts which cause the most perturbations in our society are most often those which draw no sympathy from the population? To mention only one example, when the Montreal firemen decide to have a work stoppage, legal or not, since today no one cares whether they are legal or illegal, and ask \$16,000 instead of \$14,000 or \$15,000, Mr. Speaker, who can sympathize with them? We understand the responsibility to fight fires, to protect homes and material, with one call a week or every two weeks, while the rest of the time is spent playing cards or dice, this is what it means to be a fireman.

Then how can they hope to gain the sympathy of the population when there are still small wage-earners who work from morning till night to earn the minimum wages and whose income will increase only because the provinces have now decided to raise the minimum wages. In my constituency, there are still small industries which pay minimum wages. If those were the people we have to defend, if those were the people who were asking for better wages, everyone would sympathize with them and, as the minister said, it is obvious that certain categories of manual workers, like the garbage collectors or those who