

*Feed Grain*

present labour policy has failed. It probably shows that our bargaining procedures, our desire to solve labour disputes are not as unyielding as the economic problems facing our fellow citizens.

The debate tonight, as the one we held in the case of Vancouver longshoremen, as the ones on all other disputes since 1968, indicates the importance of updating our bargaining methods and process. It proves it is time that Canadian employers realize the importance of meeting around a table, of discussing, of finding solutions to this problem to ensure the common weal and meet the needs of the people.

In my area we are now suffering from a strike involving workers in furniture industries. It is a serious conflict, because each party is standing firm and not budging from its demands and perhaps because laws are inadequate or obsolete in today's labour world to provide means of solving problems quickly.

In the case of longshoremen, exactly the same situation prevails.

Let us suppose for a moment that we legislate longshoremen back work. What would happen? It would constrain people who are resorting to justice to obtain greater employment security, better working conditions or wages. Are they right or wrong? It does not matter. This Parliament would force workers back to work without probably having obtained what they were asking if not on the whole at least in part; however, on the other hand, it would guarantee grain supplies. But would the problem would be settled for all that? It is not sure. It is not certain that emergency legislation would solve the problem since in two years, a year or six months from now, the same problem will reappear.

Madam Speaker, as stated by the Postmaster General, it is time for everyone to understand and reappraise his position and take consider circumstances from a fair and equitable point of view.

The hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Caron) told us that the situation was dramatic and he was right. And, Madam Speaker, this must be acknowledged without reference to any party politics.

We now have the opportunity of holding a debate that will allow us to show the longshoremen, the Canadian people and the millers as well that this parliament is anxious to see our country carry on its business properly and to deal with those problems. Obviously, we shall not solve this problem tonight.

Madam Speaker, I was listening this afternoon to an interview with the head of the longshoremen's union in Montreal and when the interviewer asked him: "If the parliament voted an emergency measure, what would happen?" he answered, if my memory serves me well, that even with an emergency measure, he was not sure at all that his men would go back to work.

Madam Speaker, with such an attitude prevailing we certainly shall not find a solution. And then the interviewer asked him: "Why, after having said that you would respect the injunction and that you would grant free access to grain elevators, you no longer do so?" He answered that he did not receive the unconditional sup-

[Mr. Fortin.]

port of the Quebec millers in the longshoremen's struggle to get justice.

Madam Speaker, the picket line is considered by the longshoremen as a means of pressure to force this government to act, to make people aware and to bring pressure to bear on the millers. And the same labour leader added that if the millers were so powerful that they succeeded in getting supplies they should be powerful enough to deal with their own conflict.

And, Madam Speaker, the notorious social process is again engaged and where shall we stop? As the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) was saying: Not only the common good is at stake, but the concern of our fellow citizens is reaching its highest point. It is time to take action whether or not there is grain in the elevators and what concerns me at this time is that the millers may get their supplies without trouble or fear.

Madam Speaker, Quebec needs 1,200,000 bushels of wheat, 1,700,000 bushels of oats, 2,300,000 bushels of barley and 1,200,000 bushels of corn per month, which makes a total of 6,400,000, or 213,000 bushels per day. At eleven this morning, there were in Quebec 219,000 bushels of oats, barley and wheat. The ports of Montreal and Quebec City are now supplied by Quebec City.

Madam Speaker, this shows the extreme urgency of the situation. I do not want to take the time of the House any longer, but I want to say this: I hope wholeheartedly that a positive settlement will be found in the very near future. I hope that if urgency legislation is passed, it is not exceptionally intended for a special group of longshoremen or for a special group of Canadian workers.

I believe that we should work at the same time towards a much more permanent solution, either the use of a labour court like the one the Social Credit members have been asking for a long time, or binding arbitration or any other positive solution that would enable us to secure justice and to respect requests from both parties concerned.

Madam Speaker, this government did nothing up to now. In his reply to the hon. member for Bellechasse last week, the minister said there was no problem, that he was controlling the situation keeping an eye on what was happening and he replied in a rather sneering way to the hon. member for Bellechasse that the elevators were full of grain, that there was enough grain. But, Madam Speaker, as one can see in *Hansard*, that does not settle the problem since it has to do with an access problem.

In concluding, Madam Speaker, I hope, as I said, that a rapid solution may be found, considering the emergency of the situation. In the Lotbinière area particularly, we are, a little like the Richelieu constituency, between Quebec City, Trois-Rivières and Montreal, we are really at the core of the problem. Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that this strike will not be pursued at the expense of producers, that the longshoremen will understand that. I hope above all that in this House of Commons we will try, and that this debate will teach us a lesson once and for all, we will try to get together in the east so as to secure justice for all people, just like the people from western Canada, who have been setting an example for us since I do not know how many years in this House. If and when we do under-