

Certain portions of it were unacceptable to the Progressive Conservative members sitting on the committee, and I desire to make this known both to the house and to the country at this time.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

HALIFAX SHIPYARDS—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): Has the Minister of Labour any report to make with respect to the progress of negotiations in the settlement of the strike at the Halifax shipyard? I wish to point out that this trouble spreads beyond the Halifax shipyards and is of interest to labour organizations in other parts of the province. I have resolutions from the United Mine Workers Union in my own county who are concerned and ask that the shipyards be compelled to accept the decision of the board. I should like a statement from the minister. I wish to express the hope that progress is being made towards a settlement and that it will soon be arrived at.

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I have nothing further to report, except to say that I think my hon. friend is aware that the issue in dispute is the check-off and maintenance of membership in the agreement. This company has had an agreement with the employees for the last three years. I understand they are quite prepared to sign the agreement with the exception of the check-off and maintenance of membership clause insisted on by the organization. That is the only issue in dispute. It is not a question of union recognition. Along with my hon. friend I hope that good sense will prevail on both sides and that the dispute will soon end, in view of the nature of the industry down there.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): Is not the check-off a statutory necessity in Nova Scotia?

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not know. There is a local law down there. I could not answer that. There is a provincial collective bargaining act and I think in some respects in conformity with the act it is mandatory. But there are technicalities in the way. That is my understanding.

CANADIAN FORCES

INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. G. ROSS (St. Paul's): On various occasions in the house I have asked the Minis-

ter of Labour if he would be good enough to clarify the intent and purpose of section 3 of the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act. There is much controversy over this matter in connection with the words:

To reinstate him in employment at the termination of his service in such occupation and position as would be consistent with the true intent and purpose of this act and under conditions not less favourable to him than those which would have been applicable to him had he remained in the employment of that employer.

Would the minister be good enough to make a statement in clarification of this section? If he cannot do so now, he may take this as a notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not a question that should be asked on the orders of the day.

Mr. GRAYDON: As long as it is not lost by the procedure that is now being taken I think the Minister of Labour ought to make a statement in clarification of it later. Perhaps the minister would take the hon. member's question as a notice.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's) I raise this question only because I have had so many letters in connection with the matter. It really should be clarified.

CIVIL SERVICE

ATTACHMENT OF SALARIES FOR DEBT—REFERENCE TO REPORT IN OTTAWA *Journal* OF JULY 29

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GEORGE BLACK (Yukon): I should like to direct attention to the fact that in the *Ottawa Morning Journal* the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) is reported to have referred to the fact that the salary or remuneration of federal civil servants is not subject to attachment for debt. The hon. member has drawn my attention to this report. He did not say anything of the kind; he made no reference at all to the matter. I was the hon. member guilty of making that statement, which is correct, and I am prepared to take the responsibility for it.

FARM PRICES

PROVISION FOR STABILIZATION, PURCHASE OF STAPLE PRODUCTS AT APPROVED PRICES, ETC.

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of bill No. 168, for the support of the prices of agricultural products during the transition from war to peace.

He said: At the very beginning I wish to call attention to a mistake which has been made in printing the bill, because it may be