

Government Orders

The President of the Treasury Board has said he is willing to talk about more in terms of security, fringe benefits and adjustments if there are people who are on a scale that makes it difficult for them to live. The union has said, "no". Daryl Bean has said: "No. We will not discuss anything until you get off your 0-3-3. Only when you get off that".

In other words, he is saying: "Only until you express your willingness to tax more or to borrow more to pay for my members, even though I am not willing to do that for my own employees".

Five Public Service unions have already settled for 0-3-3. You do not read about that. They have settled. They have agreed. They have said: "Yes, we recognize that we are in a tough position". They have said: "Look, at a time when airline employees are being laid off and oil and gas employees are being laid off; at a time when 25 per cent of the farming community is in tough shape; at a time when we are just coming out of the recession and it finally looks like our children might not have an impossible debt burden to deal with, we do not think it is unreasonable for us to join everybody else in the country in saying zero for a year. We do not think that is an unreasonable sacrifice". Five unions did that.

There is no question that the leadership of the labour movement is against us. I have seen Shirley Carr and Daryl Bean on television saying that this is not a political strike. That is what it is. It is not the welfare of the employees that they are looking after. It is a political strike. We have the CLC, CUPW, Canadian Auto Workers, Judy Rebick of the NAC and others joining together in a political fight. They are using the cause of the workers to pursue a political objective. Their concern about the workers is two faced by virtue of how they treat their own workers. This is a political fight. That is fine. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers of this country, to the future generations of this country, to ensure that in the pursuit of political objectives this country is not hamstrung and crippled so that we have no opportunity to meet the challenges that are demanded of us in the years to come.

The reality is that the budget brought in earlier this year is the right budget. The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Mon-

etary Fund, international groups have applauded Canada for its path. Ironically, we are suffering for it.

My friend over there mentioned the Canadian dollar. It is an irony that we are perceived by the rest of the world as doing so well that the movement into Canadian dollars is causing us problems. The dollar is too high. Foreigners like our currency because they perceive that the government is doing well. That is one of the ironies. It is something we have to deal with.

It is regrettable that this motion is necessary. As I have said, out of the nine times in the past when back to work legislation has been introduced, on all but one occasion there was recognition by the opposition that it simply made sense that we get together and agree to have appropriate and reasonable debate. Nobody wants to cut off debate. After debate you decide. That is what we are looking for. Reasonable debate and decision.

• (1750)

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it requires the co-operation of the House to do that. We cannot delay any longer, so I am putting forward this motion which will put some limitations on the stages, but would require us to sit over the weekend so that we can get it done.

Just to ensure that the motion itself has an opportunity to pass, I would like to give notice that at the next sitting of the House, immediately before the Order of the Day is called for resuming debate on Government Order No. 4 in the name of the government House leader, and on any amendments proposed thereto, I will move that the debate shall not be further adjourned.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in listening to the government House leader and his references, I would remind members of this House of the words and the way in which he presented his arguments when he made reference to the president of PSAC, made reference to the president of the Canadian Labour Congress, and made reference to the president of the Canadian Auto Workers union and their representatives. I asked myself the question: I wonder why Canada has such great difficulty competing in the international community when our own government cannot pull it together, labour, business and government. That, obviously, is the answer as demonstrated by the remarks and the veracity of the remarks of the government House leader. I think it is utterly