

Motions for Papers

question I shall be lined up alongside Mine, Mill. I can tell the Steelworkers officers right now that they are in for a hot time if they come into the Kootenays.

Having said that regarding the hon. member's remarks about his labour affiliations and other views, may I say that the members of this caucus support certain political principles and political programs. But if by any chance we differ from our political brothers over certain concrete matters coming before this house or with regard to our belonging to a certain union, the rule of our caucus is that we are always allowed to exercise our conscience on such occasions and act as we see fit. That has been recognized as our practice in this house for a good many years.

For example, we took that stand when Mr. Woodsworth opposed Canada's entry into the second world war. We recognized that principle when Mr. Coldwell supported German rearmament, and it has been recognized on numerous occasions. Therefore I make these observations only because I thought the hon. member's inference that this resolution was introduced just to harass an independent union was somewhat unfair.

Mr. Byrne: I did not say that entirely. I said it was also to harass members of parliament.

Mr. Matheson: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question before he resumes his seat? Is he fairly characterized by the appellation, "the baron of the Kootenays"?

Mr. Herridge: That, Mr. Speaker is a pressman's nightmare. I much prefer to be known as "the hillybilly from the Arrow Lakes".

● (6:40 p.m.)

Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West): Before beginning my remarks on this motion, Mr. Speaker, I believe I should recall to the house an occasion in the 1962 Parliament when I had the temerity to refer to the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) as "the baron of the Kootenays". After I had referred to the thousands of acres which I understood he owned in that area, he leaped up and said that he was only a trustee pending the revolution. I do not know into which of the programs of his party that comment fitted, and it may come as a surprise to some people in some of the urban areas of the country who supported his party. I am certainly not unwilling to accord to the hon. member that point of view because it is part of the [Mr. Herridge.]

freedom which we should have in this great country of ours.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, after reviewing the notice of motion and in particular the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) who presented the motion, that he made a very unusual argument in support of it. I hope I am summarizing his argument fairly, but I understood him to say that because a reporter for a Toronto newspaper was alleged to have somehow or other gotten a glance at certain working papers of the Norris Commission, it is now perfectly correct and proper for this house to adopt a motion forcing the production of these documents in their entirety in this house. Perhaps it could be said that there would be some form of merit in this argument if the provisions of the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, to which reference has already been made, were not in existence.

It seems to me that since these provisions are in existence then it must be these provisions that govern. It has been stated on several occasions in this house that the provisions of section 33 of the act make information contained in documents produced for the use of a conciliation board confidential unless the conciliation board deems it expedient to make that information public. Of course, section 56 of the act, which permits the creation of industrial inquiries, demands the application of this section with regard to conciliation boards to the work of industrial inquiry commissions.

It would seem to me that if this parliament deemed it proper for these documents to be produced for its use and for the use of the public generally, then the proper and lawful step would be to pass an amendment to the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act permitting documents of this type to be made public. This could then be done through a resolution of the house or some other method. More particularly, the amendment might specifically permit the production of the documents now sought by the hon. member for Winnipeg North. Unless this step is taken I say it is quite improper, if not contrary to law, to have these documents produced in this house.

The matter has a much wider ambit than the narrow question before us in this resolution. What I say now is an attempt to urge the members of this house, when the time comes, to vote against the production of the documents requested by the hon. member for