

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

TRANSACTIONS RESPECTING RAILWAY GRADE
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Now that the minister has had time to rest following the passage of his transportation bill may I ask him whether he has had time to give attention to a matter which has been pending now for about three years, I believe, namely that involving the Canadian National Railways and three or four railway grade construction contractors who are facing bankruptcy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As the hon. member said himself, this matter has been pending for a few years. I suggest that in view of these circumstances it cannot be asked at this time.

Mr. Schreyer: I would point out with respect, sir—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

COAL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS
WITH JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and ask whether he is in a position now to make a statement concerning the negotiations which have been taking place over the past three years between the coal operators in the Crowsnest pass area and the Japanese coal industry.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister is not in a position to make that statement because unfortunately he is not here this afternoon, but I will take up the matter with him.

PUBLIC SERVICE

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEC-
TIVE BARGAINING SYSTEM

The house resumed, from Friday, February 17, consideration in committee of Bill C-170 respecting employer and employee relations in the public service of Canada—Mr. Pearson—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: When we rose on Friday, February 17, we were considering clause 36 at page 20 of the bill.

Public Service Collective Bargaining

On clause 36—*Specification of process for resolution of disputes.*

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, last Friday when I called it five o'clock, I was asking the government to stand this clause, and I had not quite finished my comments. I am pleased to see that those who wish to speak to the clause will probably have the opportunity to repeat their request to the government.

Further to my intervention on Friday with respect to the clause dealing with the process for resolution of disputes, we see that there are only two ways of settling disputes in this day and age: conciliation and compulsory arbitration.

It was not my intention to take part in this debate last Friday, because I trusted the government, the governor in council would be able to deal with any particular dispute. But I could hardly hold on to my seat after hearing the statements made by the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Pelletier). The hon. gentleman's opinions have always been very different from those of citizens who advocate peaceful and orderly action.

• (3:20 p.m.)

His revolutionary ideas are known across the land. That is why we must denounce them as a national plague. He maintains, in fact, that the right to strike is normal; in his opinion, it is not to be used as a last resort, while union leaders who are not yet socialists consider it as a drastic measure. Striking is akin to revolution against the authority, and I maintain that it is an exceptional measure, that it is abnormal, contrary to what the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Pelletier) has said.

We should study the possibility of passing an act setting out bargaining procedure intent on avoiding the drastic measure at all cost, namely striking, because in the public service, striking attacks a general right. I know this does not suit our petty socialists who need revolutions to slither into power and then do away with the workers' rights. Do you want an example? Go and try to have a single strike in Russia, and it will not be long before you wind up in a concentration camp.

Mr. Chairman, the people of Canada today fear an oncoming revolution provoked by socialist elements that we meet every day and when we see, as I was in a position to observe last Friday, the minister himself consult with socialists in the lobbies, I can assure you that our fears are intensified. Those great socialists, some of who have reached the highest