

Hon. Mr. Farris: Either my honourable friend has a solution to the problem or he has not. I said this last night. If he does not have a solution, it would be very simple for him to say so.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I never said that.

Hon. Mr. Farris: No, of course you did not say that, so the only alternative is that you have a solution and are not going to give it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Hold on. To prove that this was the position of my honourable friend, I would point out that he said something to the effect that he had been in this position once before in Manitoba and was foolish enough to tell the government what it should do, and that his advice saved the province a million dollars. Now he says "I am not going to do that again". All I wish to say is that one of these two situations must be the true one.

Hon. Mr. Haig: You cannot do that. You tried to do it yesterday and failed. Now you are going to try to tell a story of which I am the butt. I do not think it is right.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Let us hear the story.

Hon. Mr. Golding: Yes, the story will not hurt.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I must object to the dignity of this house being abused in that way.

The Hon. the Speaker: Until I have heard the first words of the story I cannot judge it or stop the story from being told.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Honourable senators, one morning a professor of astronomy looked over the pupils in his classroom and, noticing that one boy was not very attentive, he said to him, "Mr. Jones, can you tell me what causes the aurora borealis?" The young man rose, scratched his head, and replied "Well, Professor, I did know the answer to that question, but I have forgotten it". Then the professor made this comment: "What a tragedy! The only man in the world who knew what causes the aurora borealis has forgotten it".

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Now, if my honourable friend opposite does know the answer to this other question—I put it hypothetically; I do not say that he does know—if he does know the answer, it is a great tragedy for this country that he will not tell us what the answer is.

I am sure that the story I told is a harmless one, and my honourable friend sees now

that he was needlessly alarmed. I do not know what story he thought I was going to tell.

An Hon. Senator: Let him tell it.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Honourable senators, I will say no more on the subject of the high cost of living or on the Korean situation. These matters are of very grave importance to this country, but I feel that there are others here who can speak on them with more authority and better than I. Besides, the questions are so comprehensive that there really is not time in one speech to discuss them thoroughly.

So I propose to ask honourable senators to consider with me some of the problems having to do with that other matter which parliament was assembled to deal with, namely, the recent railway strike. On my notes I have indicated that a number of congratulations should be extended. The first of these, of course, should go to the mover (Hon. Mr. Dupuis) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Barbour) of the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne. I have not yet had a chance to read the translation into English of the mover's speech, but I agree with other English-speaking senators who have expressed the utmost confidence that that speech will be of the high standard which always characterizes the remarks of the honourable senator from Rigaud in this house. The seconder, my honourable friend from Prince Edward Island, spoke in homely fashion. I use that term in its best and proper sense. His was the speech of a man from a province whose inhabitants probably enjoy life more than any other people in the world. And they do that, not by trying to find reasons for working less, but by honest tillage of the soil and other productive work. Their inspiration, satisfaction and other rewards come from work well done.

The parliament of Canada is to be congratulated upon the prompt and effective action that it took to stop the strike. The government also is to be congratulated, because of its display of good sense and the firm moderation with which it gave a lead to the members of parliament. And, finally, the opposition leaders are to be congratulated upon their co-operation in expediting proceedings dealing with the strike. So far as I know, the speed with which the legislation was passed and the strike brought to an end established a parliamentary record. I am sure that the action taken in the first two days of this session has raised the respect of the people for the Canadian parliament.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Farris: The men who were identified with the strike are to be congratulated for