

*Legislation Respecting Railway Matters*

fairly by those companies. I am one of those who have seen the dilapidated condition of railway stations which look more like shacks than anything else. I am one of those who have witnessed the disgraceful treatment to which are submitted certain employees who work, for instance, on new runs and who are housed in filthy box cars where the blankets are only washed every five or six months, where the people lack the basic sanitary necessities.

However, this is not the proper time, I think, to discuss that point. I am one of those also who thought the government was long in dealing with this problem. I was not aware of all the details, I admit, and if the last reports were not received by the government before August 22, it was perhaps difficult to intervene directly in this dispute.

I feel that the two old-line parties, Conservatives and Liberals, should acknowledge their wrongs. There does not exist in Canada a process likely to promote better relations between management and labour and to prevent a new outbreak of disastrous strikes such as we are now experiencing.

But I feel it is not time yet to settle this matter. We may be able to settle it later, but we are now faced with an emergency. I, like everybody else, know that the present inflation is absolutely unbearable and inadmissible, that the cost of living is fast increasing and that the governments must at all costs take drastic measures to prevent such an increase.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is not the time to settle the question, since those who use these arguments are only confusing the situation and using of dilatory measures to prevent the government from settling the matter which is urgent and may prove disastrous.

Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of some of those witch doctors in certain tribes who, on pretext of curing a sick person start by burning various parts of his body, then beat him cruelly, sometimes even bleed him white, and drive him completely mad with an unbearable racket. More often than not the poor devil dies of exhaustion and misery.

Well, I believe that instead of giving the ailing Canadian economy a similar treatment, we should locate the abscess and drain it as soon as possible to prevent the infection from spreading. When this is done we will be in a position to take overall measures to solve all the problems put forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am also one of those who deplores, as has been done a little this afternoon, the cynicism of certain labour leaders who advise their membership to flaunt the law, directly or indirectly, who already encourage them to break the law Parliament will adopt, if it is adopted by Parliament. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that it should not be allowed, it is not showing a truly Canadian spirit.

I am surprised to observe that some members of the opposition wanted to make the most of this emergency situation which, to my mind, should require all men of goodwill to unite in this national emergency which everyone recognizes and I believe that a large number could have refrained from comments or from petty politics pure and simple. The common good at stake seems to have been overlooked, Mr. Speaker.

But I think we should adopt this Government bill, even though it is not perfect, because there is nothing perfect in this world. Now, we have to take measures. Had we voted for the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition, to all practical purposes, it would have resulted in the rejection of the government bill and would have caused a further delay of a week or two. Think what this would mean to the economy of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I believe everyone should realize that this is a national emergency. Every one should realize that 20 million people are sending us an S.O.S. to please settle this strike which will affect every area of the Canadian economy.

I think everyone should realize that even the juvenile labour camps now on strike are anxious to find acceptable company but they are not anxious to remain two or three weeks idle and without getting their regular salary.

I think that the compromise proposed by the government is acceptable, though not perfect. It provides for a temporary increase, a small one I know, but which will undoubtedly be raised when the whole machinery of this bill has been put into force. Again, the government orders the parties to negotiate. Therefore, the government cannot be accused of imposing compulsory arbitration. And the government is submitting to us at the same time a second bill which, even though we have not studied it in depth, looks as if it might help solve problems in the railway crisis which is facing us right now, and the government has provided that, in case of non-agreement, there would be compulsory