

*Combines Investigation Act*

prices, namely the barbering industry. Barbers provide a service, the service of cutting hair; yet because service industries are not included in the bill there are continual increases in the price of haircuts. Of course, as members of parliament we are not subjected to that because we have a subsidized service here, and I am sure many other members of society would like the same sort of subsidy. But in normal cases the prices are raised from \$1 to \$1.25 to \$1.50, and so on. I remember in Vancouver a few years ago this being done without any hesitation or equivocation, and done openly as the result of an agreement amongst barbers to raise prices.

As I say, this does not come within the ambit of the legislation because there is no reference to services. I think there should be a reference to this question of service so that these things may be dealt with. I realize, as the minister indicated, that in the studies given to the act the question of bringing service industries under the act was not thought of or the studies had not progressed sufficiently far enough for this to occur, but I think perhaps it is time it is done now.

The wording of the proposed amendment I am introducing is not perhaps one which would be developed by draughtsmen in the minister's department if they were to draft such an amendment, but it gets at my point. Again for the sake of clarity, I am suggesting the removal of the whole paragraph and the substitution therefor of an entirely new one so that the wording is quite clear. Therefore, I move:

That paragraph (a) of subclause (1) of clause 1 be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "(a) 'article' means an article or commodity, and includes any service, that may be the subject of trade or commerce;"

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Chairman, we went over this ground in committee, as the hon. member has said, and I do not think I can add anything to what I said there. I said that we were not prepared at the moment to change the legislation so as to include what are commonly called service industries. That would be a far-reaching and complicated proposal, to place this industry within the purview of the Combines Investigation Act. They are not in it now and no one has demonstrated to me that with respect to those fields of industry there is any public detriment being suffered. For that reason I am not prepared to make an amendment or accept an amendment or recommend the acceptance of an amendment which would bring them in.

I must say in addition that when one looks at the amendment which has been drawn I fail to see how it could refrain from affecting the question of trade unions. This in itself

is an enormous field, and to suggest that it be extended that far would require detailed examination and could only be looked at, let alone be embarked upon, after the most careful consideration. I am not able to recommend this amendment.

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Chairman, although I shall have something to say on the over-all principle of clause 1 later on, I do want to speak now specifically to this amendment.

The minister mentions the influence that this amendment might have on a limited number of trade unions. However, I believe that no trade union or any interest in our society ought to have the right to determine the price of its services without the public interest being heard and adequately represented at the time those prices are determined.

The hon. member for Skeena mentioned the barbers. I am not so much concerned about the barbers but I am concerned about the legal profession having the right to determine their own scale of fees willy-nilly regardless of the interests of the general public. I am concerned about the medical profession and the architectural profession and a fairly large number of other professions having, in effect, a closed shop, not having to take into consideration the interests of the public at large. I think the amendment raises a very timely discussion at this point and ought to be pursued by hon. members of this committee, and I believe the amendment is worthy of support.

**Mr. Benidickson:** Mr. Chairman, this is a very interesting amendment. Do I recollect that the minister said with respect to legal fees that in the province of British Columbia the regulation was with respect to maximum fees and not to minimum fees?

**Mr. Fulton:** That was my comment by way of aside in the committee, yes, that our tariff is a tariff of maximum charges.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Is it ever exceeded?

**Mr. Fulton:** That would be the responsibility of the British Columbia law society to examine; I do not intend to be the policeman of the law society.

Amendment (Mr. Howard) negatived: Nays, 75; Yeas, 5.

**The Chairman:** I declare the amendment lost. Shall clause 1, as amended, carry?

**Mr. Regier:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, I have a few words to say after the amendments have been dealt with.

We had before us last year some proposed amendments to the Combines Investigation Act which were not then proceeded with. I had hoped that after the introduction of a