

Canada Labour Code

in any way, but we hope that the kind of changes the minister is now suggesting with respect to part I do not destroy the effectiveness and the usefulness of that part. I would like to express the hope, therefore, that some way can be found whereby we can have a look in print at the total package that the minister is now proposing. As I understood him, he said there would be government amendments to clause 51 of the bill and that there would be amendments to other clauses later. He said also that there would be amendments to some of the clauses in part I; I think he said between clauses 5 and 9 or 10.

I realize that we are on clause 5 and there is a rule in committee that we have to keep our discussion relevant to the clause; but is there not some way in which the minister can place before us tonight, either by distributing them in mimeograph form or by putting them in *Hansard*, all the amendments he proposes to make with respect to the hours of work aspect of this bill? He can hardly ask us to deal with one amendment without knowing what is coming later, and it would seem to me to be a good idea if we could have these amendments put before us, even if it means that we let these clauses stand and deal with the other parts of the bill tonight. I gather there are no amendments proposed by the government to the minimum wages part of the bill or to the annual vacations or the general holidays parts of the bill.

Mr. MacEachen: There are amendments in regard to the general holidays part.

Mr. Knowles: At least there are two parts of the bill, minimum wages and annual vacations, to which there are no government amendments. There might be some from this side of the chamber, of course. But I wonder whether it would not be fair to all concerned, because questions have been asked as well by the hon. member for Ontario that deserve attention, for the minister to let us have the text of the amendments to the hours of work part and then let that part stand for tonight while we deal with the parts of the bill which the government does not propose to amend.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Chairman, is the suggestion that we allow the whole of part I to stand while we consider the amendments to part I? Actually there is only one amendment to the whole of part I as it stands; part I is to remain, with the exception of one amendment which I am proposing to clause 7. I do not recollect any further amendments to part I. Therefore the rigid section of the

major proposals affecting the hours of work provisions are contained in part I, and any variation in its operation will be provided in clause 51. I have no hesitation in giving all the amendments affecting hours of work and clause 51 tonight, but I would hope we would discuss the hours of work section tonight and would not stand it.

Mr. Knowles: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we could come to some understanding about it if we had the text of the proposed amendments to clauses 7 and 51 laid before us. I just feel that we should not be asked to make a decision on the over-all package until we see what the whole package contains.

Mr. MacEachen: I have copies that I will try and get down here as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Chairman, I shall be brief because I, too, have found that we were not very well informed about the government's intentions concerning the amendments to be brought to certain clauses of Bill No. C-126.

It has been interesting to note the reactions of commercial and industrial concerns in this country when the bill was introduced and since then.

I should like to point out in passing that it might have been better to refer the bill beforehand to our committee on industrial relations. If I am not mistaken, that committee has not been given too much to do during the first part of the present session. In my opinion, it would have been a good thing to have the committee examine the matter and hear the claims of the various companies.

Anyway, it is never too late, even at this late date, to hear the recriminations or the suggestions of the various Canadian economic organizations.

Is this bill, the so-called labour code, really a labour code? Personally, I have the impression that it is a praiseworthy attempt to adopt a labour code in Canada. It was obviously necessary to start somewhere and I feel that the minister should be commended for having the courage to take the lead.

It is obvious that throughout the years, the legislation will have to be amended. But to those who at the present time are inclined to consider the critical or negative aspect of the situation, I would say that it is obviously easier to criticize than to make proposals.

As for the proposed minimum wages of \$1.25 an hour, several members have already said it was not enough and that it might be