

Messrs.

Caccia	Gustafson	McKinnon
Campbell	Hamilton	McLean
(Cardigan)	(Qu'Appelle-Moose	McRae
Clark	Mountain)	Mitges
(Yellowhead)	Harquail	Munro
Clarke	Hawkes	(Esquimalt-Saanich)
(Vancouver Quadra)	Hees	Murta
Coates	Herbert	Nicholson
Collenette	Hnatyshyn	(Miss)
Cooper	Hopkins	Nickerson
Corbin	Huntington	Nielsen
Cosgrove	Irwin	Nowlan
Côté (Mrs.)	Isabelle	Oberle
Cousineau	Jarvis	Ouellet
Crosbie	Johnston	Paproski
(St. John's West)	Joyal	Penner
Cyr	Kaplan	Pepin
Dantzer	Kelly	Peterson
Darling	King	Pinard
Dawson	Lachance	Portelance
De Bané	Lalonde	Prud'homme
Deniger	Lambert	Reid
Desmarais	Lamontagne	(St. Catharines)
Dingwall	Lang	Reid
Dinsdale	Lapointe	(Kenora-Rainy River)
Dion	(Charlevoix)	Roberts
Dionne	La Salle	Schroder
(Chicoutimi)	LeBlanc	Scott
Dionne	Lewis	(Hamilton-Wentworth)
(Northumberland- Miramichi)	Loiselle	Simmons
Ellis	Lumley	Smith
Ethier	MacBain	Speyer
Ferguson	MacEachen	Stewart
Fleming	MacGuigan	Taylor
Flis	MacKay	Thacker
Foster	MacLaren	Thomson
Francis	MacLellan	Towers
Fretz	Malone	Trudeau
Friesen	Marceau	Turner
Gauthier	Masters	Vankoughnet
Gourd	Mazankowski	Watson
(Argenteuil-Papineau)	McCain	Wenman
Gray	McDermid	Whelan
Greenaway	McGrath	Wilson
Guilbault	McKenzie	Wright
		Yanakis—139.

● (1650)

Madam Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Motion No. 21 (Mr. Kristiansen) negated.

[Translation]

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of Labour) moved that Bill C-78, an act to provide for the payment of benefits to laid-off employees and to amend the Canada Labour Code, be concurred in as amended.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I have had consultations with my colleagues in the opposition parties. It seems there is unanimous consent to deal with third reading this afternoon.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that we proceed to third reading?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Caccia moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

He said: Madam Speaker, at this point of third reading of Bill C-78, I would like to thank hon. members for their collaboration. The experience we had in committee where views

Labour Adjustment Benefits

were exchanged and constructive criticism given was a very valuable one. The result is a much improved labour adjustment benefits act. I think we can all be proud of our collective effort.

I hope this bill will get through the House today and will go on to speedy passage through the Senate so that older workers whom this bill is designed to help can begin to receive early retirement benefits without further delay. It is of the utmost importance that this bill be enacted as soon as possible because the burden of unemployment on older workers is too often more devastating than for younger workers. That is because alternatives such as relocation and retraining often are not solutions for the older worker.

As members who have been involved in the passage of this bill know, Bill C-78 is Labour Canada's contribution to the broader idea known as the industrial labour adjustment program. Bill C-78 provides a safety net for older workers in designated communities or industries suffering from industrial dislocation because of import competition, technological or structural change. In other words, it supports older workers who have not benefited from other programs promoting retraining, relocation and work sharing.

Bill C-78 also includes amendments to the Canada Labour Code. The general thrust of these amendments is to reduce the adverse effects of redundancies and lay-offs on employees by requiring employers to undertake more orderly manpower adjustments through negotiation and, if necessary, arbitration of lay-off plans, longer notification of terminations and improvements to severance pay benefits. Over all, these modifications to the Canada Labour Code place greater responsibility on employers for the protection of their employees in cases of redundancy and lay-off.

In conclusion, I am convinced that Bill C-78 will help these difficulties facing older workers affected by certain economic conditions and serve to supplement the extensive array of federal industrial assistance and labour market programs already in place.

● (1700)

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, I also rise to speak on this bill. We on this side of the House will support this bill in the belief that it is a step forward. It is a small recognition of a problem which exists in Canada but is a very progressive piece of legislation. Although this bill will affect only about 850 people at the present time, with the current economic conditions being experienced in Canada today we maintain that this number will expand.

As we reviewed this bill, the official opposition attempted to include technological change in the definition of industrial restructuring within the act. The majority of the witnesses who appeared before us in committee were concerned that technological change might not be included under industrial restructuring. For that reason we supported their representations and