



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN CANADA

A speech by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Milton F. Gregg, made at the International Labour Conference, Geneva, June 15, 1955

I welcome the opportunity of attending once again the International Labour Conference. Two years ago I was pleased to find a number of important matters being dealt with in a realistic and intelligent manner, and I was particularly interested at that time in the discussions which took place on the organization and functions of national labour departments. Those discussions have been often in my mind since, and I can truthfully say that I think they have helped and been of benefit in the work of my Department.

I was also able at that time to obtain a first-hand appreciation of the valuable and constructive work that the ILO is doing. Nothing that has happened in the interval has weakened my faith or that of my Government in the aims and purposes of the Organization or in its ability to continue the progress it has made towards the fulfilment of the principles which were incorporated in its Charter 36 years ago. Its achievements over the years are outstanding as a pioneering agency concerned with matters of human welfare and also as a disseminator throughout the world of the great body of useful experience it has accumulated through the various phases of its work. I have confidence that the ILO can and will work out solutions for current issues consistent with its principles and structure.

It is to be hoped that the privileges and rights of membership in the International Labour Organization will be recognized increasingly as carrying corresponding responsibilities to accord basic rights and freedoms. We all recognize however the necessity for patience, co-operation and vigorous thinking on the part of all participating groups here.

The ability of the ILO to enlarge our vision is evidenced once more in this year's Report of the Director-General, which discusses a specific problem--namely labour-management relations--against a very rich background of national outlooks and practices. Labour-management relations is, I think, a particularly rewarding topic for consideration by the ILO. Since the early days of the Organization, a maturing process has been taking place in this field of industrial relations. It is not many years since a discussion of this subject was likely to deal only with a rather negative aspect--that of dispute settlement procedures. Today the more positive aspects of the subject are increasingly recognized. We are exploring more and more