Supply

Miss MacDonald: He may well have been there in 1959, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate him if he was. But what has the Hon. Member been doing in the last 10 or 15 years while his Government has been in office?

Mr. Turner: Where were you?

Miss MacDonald: There have been no changes brought to the Canada Labour Code in that period of time.

Mr. Turner: There were no Conservative Party members, Mr. Speaker. I was on the picket line. I was in Sudbury, Toronto, and Windsor. I operated part of the strike on the CPR. There were no Conservatives nor New Democrats there. Where were they then? They are talking about the issue now.

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to see the Hon. Member for London East (Mr. Turner) getting into the debate. I have no great argument with him. In a sense, he is one of the House officers. He is perhaps the one who can best tell us why it was that the then Minister of Labour in May 1981 said that these Canada Labour Code amendments would be before the House in short order. He did not bring them forward at that time, and here we are having wasted three years when these amendments might have been in effect.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, may I answer the question of the Liberal Whip who just asked us, New Democrats and Conservatives, where were we in 1959. I do not know where other Members were, but I was busily engaged in 1959 helping to raise money and organize protest rallies—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please. I must insist that the questions be directed to the Hon. Member who just delivered a speech.

Mr. Kristiansen: Comments or questions, I believe, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): I am sorry to advise the Hon. Member but comments are supposed to refer to the speech delivered by the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald).

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, in listening to the comments of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) I could not help but reflect upon the attitude of Conservative and Liberal members over the years. For instance, in 1959 I was busily engaged in organizing protest rallies and raising money trying to protect the rights of woodworkers in the Province of Newfoundland who were facing legislation that, for the first time in Canadian history and almost the only time in international history in the free world, outlawed an entire union from the Province of Newfoundland. That, Mr. Speaker, was done by a Liberal Government. We had never in the history of the United States. Canada, or western Europe, to my knowledge, other than for Adolf Hitler and perhaps for Il Duce in Italy, seen the kind of legislation that totally banished an entire free organization from any political jurisdiction in North America or anywhere

in Europe. A Liberal Government imposed that on us. For the Liberal Party to try now to play hero when it is responsible for the most vicious anti-labour legislation that ever existed in North America, sounds a little hollow—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Order, please, I must again draw to the attention of the Hon. Member that he is supposed to be directing his remarks to the Hon. Member who has just spoken. The Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald).

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I truly do appreciate the great interest of members of the Liberal Party and of the New Democratic Party in the past. I understand they are rooted in 1959.

What I was trying to do in my comments, Sir, was to direct the attention of the House to the very real problems that will be faced by Canadians in an advancing technological age in the next decade, to look forward and to see how it is we can introduce good amendments that will make it possible for people to have more beneficial working situations in the years that lie ahead, not look back to 1959.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Are there any more questions?

Mr. Wenman: Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the floor is not asked for, as the proponent of the motion I may conclude the debate. Is that right?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): At this stage the Hon. Member can ask a question, if he so wishes, of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands.

Mr. Wenman: No, Sir. I was rising to debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): I see the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) rising.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue the question of technological change with the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). She mentioned that this change is very definite. The change has been going on gradually. The Government's program has met some of the retraining needs but not all. The difficulty with the Government's program is that there are not enough slots for training. In my riding, young people particularly, men and women, go to the employment office and are told that there are no slots, no places. This is pretty frustrating. The Government sets up a program and it is not set up big enough to include the majority of those who want to retrain. I would like to have the comments of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands on this.

Just before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask where the Liberals were in 1918 when the UMWA and I were fighting the OBU.

Mr. Ellis: Where were you, Charlie?