

National Training Act

Mr. Crombie: Mr. Speaker, is the minister suggesting that he would change the wording?

Mr. Axworthy: Yes.

Mr. Crombie: That is certainly acceptable to us, Mr. Speaker. The wording suggested by Senator Tremblay was suggested in committee. It was acceptable to us and we are happy it is acceptable to the minister and his officials.

Motion (Mr. Axworthy) agreed to.

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale) moved:

Motion No. 2

Bill C-115, An Act to establish a national program for occupational training, be amended in clause 12

(a) by striking out line 21 at page 7 and substituting the following therefor:

"12.(1) The Commission shall invite the gov-"

(b) by adding immediately after line 26 at page 7, the following:

"12.(2) That such information needed to assess the requirements of the labour market as described in Section 12(1) will be provided through a data base within the Commission. Such data shall be solicited from the Governments of the Provinces, business and labour.

12.(3) That the Commission shall supplement said data base in Subsection (2) with labour market information and analysis solicited from non-governmental sources representative of labour, business, industry, and special needs groups."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is an important aspect of the bill. I will not spend much time with it because there has been a change in the motion which I would like to proceed with now. The motion which you have before you and which is now before the House was put in committee in similar words and ruled out of order.

The purpose of the motion was to establish within the bill the principle that there ought to be established a national labour market institute. Mr. Speaker, the national labour market institute was a proposal that was made three and a half years ago by the Business Council on National Issues, in conjunction with the Canadian Labour Congress. It envisaged participation by business and labour and some funding by government in order to provide a vehicle for seeking a definition of labour market needs.

The minister had some difficulty with some of the principles involved here. In particular, the minister sent a letter to the interested parties, asking them to broaden the labour base and to broaden the base for picking up statistics to include those groups which were so-called equity target groups.

The fact of the matter is that just about everyone agrees with the principle of a national labour market institute. Indeed, the all parliamentary task force put forward a unanimous recommendation in its report; Section 163 recommended a national labour market institute. In a report yesterday afternoon and at a press conference this morning, the Economic Council of Canada indicated their strong support for the development of that concept, in order to have an efficient way to detect future labour market needs.

The reason I need not spend too much time on it now, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister was able to advise me this afternoon that there was wording that was acceptable to him

and to the government that embraced the same principle as in my motion. What I would like to do, with the unanimous consent of the House, Mr. Speaker, is to withdraw my motion, the motion standing in my name, and substitute the following motion, on the clear understanding that this wording is 100 per cent acceptable to the government:

That Clause 12 of Bill C-115 be amended (a) by striking out line 21 on page 7 and substituting the following:

"Joint committee" "12 (1) The Commission shall invite the gov-"

and (b) by inserting immediately after line 26 on page 7 the following:

"Statistical information" "(2) For the purposes of assessing the requirements of the labour market for skilled workers, the Commission shall request statistical or other information or study from appropriate sources, including the government of any province, employers, labour organizations and groups representing adults with special training needs."

The only concluding remark I would make in support of that, and I think it now has the support of all sides of the House, is that this is an idea that has been around now for three and a half years. It is an idea that is fundamental. The need is urgent and the time is now, so I am very pleased that the government has agreed to the principle and is going to put it in the bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I have a request to withdraw the motion that was before the House and to substitute this new wording. That can be done with unanimous consent. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Agreed and so ordered.

Motion (Mr. Crombie) withdrawn.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the initiative by the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) in asserting, as he has both here and in committee, the notion of establishing a labour market institute. It is a sensible idea that I also endorse.

As I pointed out in committee, it would have been wrong to include the direct definition of that in the bill, because we were in negotiation. I have undertaken to reply to the Canadian Labour Congress and the Business Council on National Issues, who made the original proposal, suggesting amendments to their proposals, and it will all have to be worked out. We are in favour of the principle and are hoping to realize the solution to and the realization of that within a short period of time, if we can get agreement of all the respective parties.

This amendment does not make a direct reference to the labour market institute. As the member for Rosedale said,