

Labour Conditions

census was taken with respect to incomes earned. I would think Canadian employees holding two jobs would have made the position clear.

For these reasons I think legislation of the type before us is particularly helpful. I think the present bill falls within the general design of the legislation which was brought forward by the previous government and the legislation which this house has adopted during the past year. I hope this labour standards legislation will be regarded as another phase of governmental attack on poverty. I hope that all the programs which have been initiated by the previous government together with those which have been put into effect over the last year will be co-ordinated so as to combat poverty more effectively. If this is done I think we can regard the measure before us as being truly a step forward.

In this connection I should like to read into the record one excerpt from the minister's speech—the speech to which I referred on January 24, 1964. It is as follows:

It may be that to break the vicious circle in which they—the poor—find themselves we shall have to launch a frontal assault on the problem not only by a measure of integration of our present federal programs with these problems in mind but also by working more closely together with the provinces.

This is the pattern which has been followed in the United States.

There is another aspect of this legislation with which I should like to deal. It has to do with the political justifications of the standards set out in this bill. In this connection I would refer hon. members to the last memorandum presented by the Canadian Labour Congress to the government of Canada—a memorandum dated December 11, 1963. This is what the congress had to say with reference to labour standards:

We have on previous occasions advocated a minimum wage act providing for \$1.25 an hour and an hours of work act establishing 40 hours a week as a maximum, and amendments to the Vacations With Pay Act.

Then the brief goes on to deal with other matters. I think it can be said that the legislation before us is on all fours with that particular recommendation, one which came from the principal labour organization of this country. For this reason I believe the standards set out in the present bill will commend themselves to hon. members. I would point out, too, that the provisions in this bill measure up to the standards advocated in various private members' bills which have already been discussed in this

house or which, though before us, have not yet been discussed because an opportunity has not arisen. I refer principally to the bill sponsored by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). His Bill No. C-36 recommends in essence the same standards as are contained here, except that the statutory holidays for which he asks amount to eight compared with the seven set out in the bill before us. The hon. member is requesting a minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour as of February 20, 1964. There is further justification for the standards embodied in this legislation on the basis of the commitments of this party during two election campaigns. These commitments have been included in the Liberal party leaflets. We gave firm pledges that these standards would be incorporated in legislation and brought before parliament, and the standards contained in this bill are in line with the commitments this party made to the Canadian people prior to the elections of 1962 and 1963.

Mr. Knowles: And in 1919.

Mr. Munro: That is going too far back for me.

I think the situation today certainly justifies the passing of this legislation, taking it in the context of the amount of discussion there has been on the question of poverty in this country and the revelations with regard to it.

Mr. Knowles: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Munro: Yes.

Mr. Knowles: In view of his reference to the minimum standards set in the present bill and his statement that they are similar to those for which such bodies as the Canadian Labour Congress have asked, can the hon. member tell us whether he is aware that at its convention in April this year the Canadian Labour Congress altered its previous request to the government and asked that the minimum wage standard be raised to \$1.50 an hour and that there should be nine statutory holidays?

Mr. Munro: Yes, I am aware that such a resolution was passed by the C.L.C. at its last annual meeting. But I limited my own remarks to the recommendation of the congress as embodied in its last submission to the government. I believe these submissions are made every year—