

*Canada Labour (Standards) Code*

18 months being up now, could the minister not tell us when a definite and final conclusion will be made with respect to this matter?

**Mr. Nicholson:** No, Mr. Chairman, the minister cannot.

Happily, or basically, one principal reason for the legislation was to provide for a minimum wage. That minimum wage will be universal in effect by the end of this month. In most instances it already is in effect. In the great majority of industries the minimum wage results sought for have been accomplished. In certain industries, and I am thinking of small flour mills—

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Chairman, in view of the answers given to my previous question, how can anyone say the act is enforced if employers and employees under federal jurisdiction are working in excess of the hours provided for under the act? Has an additional extension been given? If so, let me point out that the act does not provide for that.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Some deferments with regard to hours to be worked extend beyond December 31, 1966. That extension can be and has been provided under the act.

**Mr. Starr:** By regulation?

**Mr. Nicholson:** No, by permit or by order. There is no question about that. One thing that cannot be deferred beyond December 31, 1966, is the minimum hourly rate. The minimum must be paid and the applicable overtime must be paid.

**Mr. Starr:** There is no contravention of the act, I take it, should any question arise for further deferment?

**Mr. Nicholson:** There has been no contravention of the act as yet, to my knowledge. If there has been any contravention I would appreciate any hon. member bringing it to my attention or to the attention of my department.

**Mr. McCleave:** Do the minister's remarks apply to prevailing rate employees and casual employees of government departments? I understand, for example, that there are complaints from Halifax International Airport. Some of the cleaning staff are not properly covered by the operations of the act. Is this the type of complaint the minister would like us to dig out of our files and send to him?

**Mr. Nicholson:** No, Mr. Chairman, because what the hon. member refers to comes under

another act or special regulation. This other act applies to certain employees who are other than government employees. You may recall that we also have the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act and some federal government employees are covered by general regulations.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I should like to follow up the question asked by the hon. member for Ontario, and ask the minister if it is not a fact that with respect to the hours of work applying to a whole series of industries, including the railway industry, the 18 month extension after which the industry will be forced to adopt the 40 hour week will come into effect when the minister grants that extension. In the meantime, there are a whole series of industries which have made applications. In those industries the 40 hour week is automatically deferred until the minister gives a ruling. In fact, the minister has not yet made a ruling with regard to some of those industries. There is nothing in the act which says that he must make a ruling within any particular time. Only after he gives a ruling and grants deferment will the industry have this further 18 months to which I referred. In some cases, that ruling may never come.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Had I been allowed to finish my brief statement, I might not have been asked that question.

I have spoken about legislation providing exceptions to whole industries. There were some pressures to exclude whole industries from the act. Those pressures were resisted by my predecessor, by the government, and by parliament because parliament took the responsibility of passing this measure in its present form. Commendable progress I think has been made in dealing with deferments since the act became law.

The general procedure, as all hon. members must know, is that one industry or a group of industries applies before the deadline for an extension, which automatically results pending disposition. We are gradually dealing with the applications which have been made. For instance I have dealt with several during the last three or four days.

**Mr. Starr:** How many are there which have not been dealt with?

**Mr. Nicholson:** Deferments have been granted in the case of certain small air lines, not the large air lines, smaller ones operating during the fire season in the north country and in other cases. Flour mills and grain elevators have been given certain consideration, but in the great majority of cases there