

attention of the minister of energy, mines and resources. I am sure he will appreciate advance notice of these questions and will deal with them when he makes a statement on estimates. I cannot, of course, obligate the minister, but the list having been prepared, and its being a comprehensive and useful one I will bring it to the attention of the minister; and I am sure he will deal with these matters on his estimates.

I would point out that it is not through neglect or through any desire not to be here that the minister of energy, mines and resources is not in the committee today. His absence is due to federal-provincial conferences now taking place. In speaking to my hon. friend a few minutes ago I indicated that it was essential for him to be there in the interest of resource development in Canada.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, just on that point, the minister said that he would bring these matters to the attention of the minister of energy, mines and resources, which perhaps is all he can do. But it is almost a point of honour now with the Minister of National Revenue—a gentleman's agreement—that the topics raised by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle will be the subject of responses by the minister of whom he is speaking. Our concession on this side, of course, is to pass the bill now in committee stage and get on with other matters. That is a major concession, in view of the importance of the subject matters raised by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Chairman, when I indicated that I would bring them to the attention of the minister of energy, mines and resources, I am presuming that he will have the courtesy to reply to the questions raised by the hon. member.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

PUBLIC SERVICE

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SYSTEM

Hon. E. J. Benson (for the Prime Minister) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-170,

Public Service Collective Bargaining

respecting employer and employee relations in the public service of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government, with the co-operation of hon. members, to proceed with second reading of the three bills, C-170, C-181 and C-182, which together would provide for the introduction of collective bargaining into the public service and for a number of other important reforms in the processes of public administration. If it is agreeable to the house, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by asking hon. members to consider Bill C-170, the proposed Public Service Staff Relations Act. Following second reading of that bill, I would like to proceed to Bill C-181, the proposed Public Service Employment Act, and then to Bill C-182, which contains proposed amendments to the Financial Administration Act.

Hon. members have already approved the establishment of a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons which, it is hoped, will review all three measures and report its views to the house prior to third reading. It is my intention after each bill has been read a second time to propose a motion to provide for referral to this committee, which has been established by the house.

In speaking to Bill C-170, I would like to begin by reviewing very briefly the principal features of the system of collective bargaining for which it would provide.

Under the proposed system, bargaining rights would be available to virtually all public servants except those carrying managerial responsibilities and those serving management in a confidential capacity. It would not be available to employees of crown corporations now covered by the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, to members of the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or to certain smaller groups for whom it would be difficult or inappropriate to establish terms and conditions of employment by means of collective bargaining.

● (7:30 p.m.)

The system would be administered by a staff relations board, similar in composition to the labour relations boards that operate in the different jurisdictions across Canada. The board would have the power to define bargaining units and can certify employee organizations as bargaining agents. It would also provide an administrative umbrella for other third party functions, including the arbitration of disputes and the adjudication of grievances.