

Routine Proceedings

[Translation]

• (1020)

CANADA LABOUR CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-44, an act to amend the Canada Labour Code (geographic certification).

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed to be adopted.

Mr. Danis moves that the bill be now read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed to be adopted.

Bill read first time and ordered to be printed.

[English]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question regarding the bill that has just been tabled. My question is to my hon. friend, the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader. Does he feel any sense of urgency regarding this legislation? Second, is the Senate, or the other place, in a position to deal with this in the remaining part of this week? Is he able to respond to those two questions? If not, perhaps we could have some discussions later in the day.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I can say to my hon. friend that there appears to be some urgency for the legislation. I understand that it would help bring to an end a strike that has been going on for several months now. In that sense, yes, there is some urgency.

Second, in terms of the Senate, I cannot answer for it although normally on this type of legislation it has had a tendency to be very co-operative. If in the next day or two we were able to complete this legislation, that would certainly help. Getting it to the Senate early tomorrow may allow for speedy passage.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader. Once the Senate rises today when does it sit again? Is it not Tuesday?

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I must confess not having been a member of that august institution I am not familiar with its sitting hours. However, I would be happy to check and if we can do anything to encourage it to help facilitate the House in the passage of this legislation, rest assured that if this House could come to an agreement on it I would be more than happy to make representations to the hon. senators down the hall.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal party would want to co-operate in every way possible in terms of facilitating the legislation on the floor of the House. Perhaps the parliamentary secretary could obtain answers to the questions which have been put forward by my hon. friend, the House leader for the New Democratic Party. Then a discussion might take place with House leaders later this day to see whether we can facilitate the minister's particular objective here.

Just to underline, we are more than willing to co-operate with the government providing that we do have some reasonable discussions later this day.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I have just been passed a note indicating that the Senate does not sit tomorrow. Perhaps what we can do as House leaders is get together and have a quick discussion and perhaps we can come to a reasonable agreement that will accommodate all the parties' concerns.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I appreciated the comments by my hon. colleague, the House leader for the Official Opposition. I think the suggestion is a very good one and we should meet as House leaders or appropriate designates and see if we can deal with this in an appropriate way without hindering progress on the legislation.

Mr. Speaker: I thank hon. members.