

*Department of Labour Act*

probability conditions of the labour market could be included in the definition "conditions of labour" which still exists.

It is important that some branch of government deal with conditions in the labour market. I understand much of this work is being undertaken by the Department of Employment and Immigration, the manpower part of which probably did not exist in the year 1900. It is important that we know the number of jobs available across Canada in the various parts of the country, what people are available to fill those jobs and where they are located. It is important to have an understanding of the willingness of people to travel from one part of the country to another, such as unemployed people in Nova Scotia travelling to Alberta to find work.

Having this information enables policy decisions to be made relating to the relocation of labour, the immigration policy and policies respecting unemployment insurance and various other social programs. It also gives us an idea of the need for training and the training opportunities that are needed so that Canadians who are presently unemployed can avail themselves of opportunities that exist. The Minister of State for Mines (Mrs. Erola) has just left the chamber. She must be well aware of the problems in the mining industry. The mine may be located in an area of high unemployment but the mine operators are unable to get skilled people to work in the mine.

Section 4 will still require the minister to "collect, digest and publish in suitable form statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labour". It is useful that this practice be continued. Obviously this should be done in conjunction with the provinces and territories which have the responsibility for labour standards; labour relations and standards in the case of the provinces and labour standards only in the case of the territories.

I urge the minister to look into the possibility of amendments to the Canada Labour Code so that eventually the territories can also take over responsibility relating to labour relations. I could go into that situation in some detail, but because I only have a couple of minutes left, I will not do this at this time. However, I can assure the minister it is a matter of considerable importance in both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon territory. It is important that the requirement be there to instigate and conduct inquiries into important industrial questions. These can be published, not in the *Labour Gazette* but hopefully in other magazines and publications with wide circulation among those interested in labour affairs.

Finally, I would like to suggest three areas of study in these matters which it might be advantageous for the Department of Labour to look into. First, I would like to see comparative studies made in labour matters between Canada and various other countries. I have listed three: the United States of America where they have the free agent approach to life, Germany, which is renowned for its co-operative approach between labour, management and government, and Japan where they have a paternalistic approach to labour relations. It would be useful to know how the various labour regimes in these countries result in differences, loss of productivity, number of days lost through industrial disputes, and so on.

Second, I would like to see more study into working conditions and wages of public servants. The record of industrial disputes is not to be envied. In the senior levels of the public service many good people are being lost.

Third, I would like to see a study carried out into the concept people have of strikes. At one time a strike was a last resort, but today it is becoming more and more commonly accepted as a tactic in labour relations; it is no longer a last resort. It is something people do as a matter of course, just as they go to the negotiating table or to a conciliator. This is something to be looked into. That is all I will say at this time. I hope I have left enough time for the vote to be taken.

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, it should be stated in the few minutes that remain that we have a statute to underline the point made by the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) and the hon. member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson) that this Parliament has passed a law called the Criminal Records Act. It states clearly that if you are convicted of breaking any federal statute, for the purposes of that act you are considered to have a criminal record. In the vernacular, that makes one a criminal.

It is obvious that it is not the fault of the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) that we are in the process of doing something which clearly contravenes an earlier act, nor is it the fault of his predecessor the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser). However, it should be very clear in the record of this House that we are talking about something which, if there had been a trial and conviction, would constitute, in the vernacular, a breach of a federal statute, in other words, a crime.

That point has to be driven home again and again to those opposite. We have laws in this country. If they are federal statutes, the breaking of them constitutes a crime. It cannot be made too clear to those opposite that whether they are talking about uranium and the Combines Investigation Act or the legislation here which they have been breaching for the last year and half, what they are doing is breaking the law without having been convicted of it. That is a very serious matter for any government in a democratic or non-democratic country to be contemplating.

I would simply express complete agreement with the points made by the hon. member for Calgary West and the hon. member for Western Arctic. Is there an understanding that the vote will be taken at four o'clock?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my friend in the course of his remarks has indicated a question with respect to an understanding. There was an understanding that we would dispose of this bill at this stage at four o'clock. I would have no objection if you did not see the clock for a few moments.

**Mr. Evans:** I agree.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?