

(English)

The CHAIRMAN: We will certainly have a meeting of the steering committee and, following your suggestion, we will try to find the best solution.

Would you move the concurrence to the steering committee report?

Mr. DUQUET: I so move.

Mr. ÉMARD: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Motion agreed to.

May I ask now for a motion for printing? This is with regard to the number of copies to be printed. It has been suggested that the Committee print 1,000 copies in English and 500 copies in French of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence.

Mr. LEFEBVRE: I so move.

Mr. DUQUET: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Motion agreed to.

I will ask the Clerk of our Committee to read the orders of reference.

The CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE: Ordered that Bill No. C-2, an Act to amend the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Employment. Léon-J. Raymond, the Clerk of the House.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I should like to invite the Hon. John Nicholson, Minister of Labour, to make an opening statement.

Hon. John NICHOLSON (*Minister of Labour*): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen, as the Clerk of the Committee has said, this Bill that has been referred to this Committee, Bill No. C-2, is the bill to amend the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act.

That Act has been in the revised statutes in the last two or three printings. In fact, it has been in the Statutes of Canada, without amendment, since 1935.

The purpose of the Bill, as I explained in the House on the motion for second reading, is to deal with the wages and the hours standards of the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act which relate to government contracts only. This statute, the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, applies to nothing except to government contracts—the construction of public buildings and work of that nature.

The intent of this amendment is to bring the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, which applies to government contracts, into line with the Labour Standards Act which was approved by parliament last year. It is nothing more than that. It is a very simple amendment.

I have brought along, and I would like to introduce, if I may, the officials who are with me. The Deputy Minister, Mr. George V. Haythorne, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Wilson, the head of the Legal Department, Mr. Davis, also Miss Lorentsen of the Legislation Branch and Mr. Johnstone who is the Director in charge of administration of the Labour Standards Code. They are here to answer any questions that may be put to them either before or after witnesses are called.