

*Employment Support Bill*

special provision to be made in this particular legislation, I gathered from the smile on his face that this was intended to be one of many to come. I do not blame anybody for doing that because this is the usual progressive way of getting one's own thinking implemented in bills. I suspect—and if I am wrong I shall apologize on my knees—that my hon. friend from Oshawa-Whitby will be coming back later to suggest, and he would make a good case for it, that similar information should be given on grants for research and development also. Be that as it may, we have an unfortunate situation where the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby takes the position that everything should be put in the report.

**Mr. Broadbent:** No.

**Mr. Pepin:** Oh, nearly everything—whatever it is he mentioned in his amendment, should be put in the report. Then the hon. member for Edmonton West says that nothing should be said—so in my usual liberal way I am compromising. Compromise is the bread and butter of politics and I have done that for a number of years now, in the sense that the information on assistance provided to particular companies is not made public under my other Industry, Trade and Commerce programs. This has generally not caused much hardship. I suggest to hon. members that in some cases I have been able to provide such information on specific requests. Of course, I have to seek permission from the company involved to release the information and have to make some assessment in respect of whether it will cause them embarrassment. I undertake to do this under the employment support program now being discussed.

I have asked on a number of occasions if it would be an embarrassment to a company if it is known that the Canadian government has provided it with subsidies of a certain amount. Some companies have said no, possibly a bit reluctantly, and I have given the information to the House. I have gone halfway trying to accommodate the very well known curiosity of my hon. friend from Oshawa-Whitby among others. In this case I have said in committee, and I repeat it now, that I would be giving information regarding levels of employment by sectors; I would take sectors and supply information on how much employment has been maintained in a sector. This is a practice which Statistics Canada follows. When it is possible to identify a particular company, they give what I referred to as sector information. So much for what is going to be in the report.

I share the argument that reporting once a year, especially in view of the temporary nature of this bill, might not be enough. If my hon. friend or anybody in the House wants to introduce an amendment to clause 21 to the effect that reporting should be on a quarterly basis, I would be delighted to accept that.

• (8:40 p.m.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, could I move such an amendment myself, or is it against the rules?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The minister knows that according to the rules, notice must be given. The

[Mr. Pepin.]

Chair cannot allow an amendment at this point, because there has not been notice. Of course, it could be done by unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Standing Order 75(8) reads:

When the Order of the Day for the consideration of a report stage is called, any amendment of which notice has been given in accordance with section (5) of this order shall be open to debate and amendment.

We had a case of this a few days ago. I submit that if any member who has not already taken part in the debate wishes to move an amendment to the motion before this House, that would be in order. It could be moved without notice although Your Honour would have to decide whether or not it was relevant.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Speaking on the point of order raised by the hon. member, the Chair was of the impression that the minister was speaking of a new amendment to replace the one in front of us. The hon. member seems to be raising the point that the amendment in front of the House at this time could be amended. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of the hon. member to bring in a subamendment and it would be the responsibility of the Chair afterward to decide whether the purport of the subamendment was relevant to the amendment.

**Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, with leave I should like to move an amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Howard), that clause 21 of this bill be amended so that it would read as follows:

The minister shall as soon as possible after the end of each calendar quarter prepare a report on the administration of this act during each calendar quarter and shall cause such report to be laid before Parliament forthwith upon the completion thereof or, if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first fifteen days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I submit that the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) is now moving the kind of amendment to the bill itself which Your Honour would say can only be done by notice. If the point is reached where I can get the floor to test what the minister has said, I would be happy to move an amendment to the motion now before us. Oh, I shall not be able to do it because I seconded the main motion. My leader has offered to do what I have now asked him to do.

**Mr. Baldwin:** He is taking a chance.

**Mr. Lewis:** I know what it is.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** He is prepared to go along with me.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) has the floor. He sought to move an amendment which has not yet reached the Chair and it is difficult for the Chair to make a decision on it. When I see the amendment, I can rule on it. After that I shall recognize another hon. member who perhaps could move another amendment.