

Association and suppliers who prepared and assisted in the preparation of this Bill. They too offered their useful input along with organized labour and have all agreed to comply with these requirements.

Another important feature of this legislation is the fact that it will be applicable in all provinces, as I understand it, and territorial jurisdictions as well. With this legislation, we now have international standards to protect workers at the workplace.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, my sole concern is to ensure or to have the Government give this House the assurance that the various jurisdictions, namely the federal, provincial and territorial governments, will have the necessary resources to deal with this question and enforce the new legislation being introduced today.

[English]

In order to make sure that this legislation is properly enforced, the standard must be at adequate levels and a commitment is necessary on the part of governments, be it the federal Government or the territorial governments and as well commitment is necessary on the part of employers that the resources will be there.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, that federal Act would provide for the establishment of a single, independent, trilateral, national Commission responsible to Parliament, through the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre), with responsibility to rule on confidentiality claims in respect of industrial products.

It would also be charged with ruling on initial examination of claims validity and providing trilateral arbitration on any appeal of those rulings. Because we know that often toxic chemical manufacturers, all kinds of chemicals, claim the confidentiality of their documents could be violated if the chemical composition of some of their products was published. But with the appeal mechanism provided for in this legislation, there will still be a method under which, as I am told, appeals could be made, where a manufacturer claims that others have violated his secrets, if they can be so termed, for the manufacturing of chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of the Liberal party which initiated that measure some four years ago. It is my hope the legislation will pass within a very short time frame in this House, and I repeat my wish and that of our party that the necessary resources, both nationally, provincially and industry-wide be made available to those who will need them to ensure that the legislation not only is well drafted but effectively implemented in the future.

Hazardous Materials Information Review Act

• (2110)

[English]

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, in his remarks on Bill C-70, the hazardous materials legislation that is before us at the present time, the Minister congratulated the opposition Parties for their co-operation. In my case, I think there has been more than co-operation because I have been pushing for this legislation almost from the day I became a Member of Parliament many years ago. It is something that I believe is very necessary and I do congratulate the various participants from the provinces, the labour movement and the business sector for working together to achieve this common goal.

The Departments of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Labour and Health and Welfare of the federal Government deserve a great deal of credit for having facilitated this process. The participants, especially the Canadian Labour Congress, the *Fédération des Travailleurs du Québec*, the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Dupont Canada deserve a great deal of credit for having worked toward an agreement which will achieve not all that each of them wanted but which will allow the legislation to be passed in order to improve health and safety conditions for Canadian workers.

Frankly, I look forward to seeing this consultative process continue in other areas of health and safety, in other areas of labour legislation and as a general practice. Personally, I believe it is too bad that the Government does not use this real consultative approach in economic matters, in job creation and with regard to social programs.

I reiterate that I am pleased that this Bill is finally coming before the House. I realize it is an all-Party agreement and that it is very difficult for us in the House to amend an all-Party agreement. By all-Party, I mean the participants from the business sector, the labour movement and the chemical industry that have worked with the provinces and the federal Government to bring this legislation before the House. They worked together on this consensus document and it is understandable that the parties that were part of that consensus would not want to see changes made in the legislation. However, as I have indicated to the Minister earlier tonight and during the pre-study in committee, I have a small number of amendments which I believe can live up to the principles of the consensus and at the same time improve the legislation.

One of the most important changes to be made is that there should be an actual implementation date in the legislation. In testimony before the committee, it was indicated that there was a tripartite agreement that the law and the regulations should be in operation by October 1 of 1988. I believe that it is important that the legislation actually have a deadline stating when it will be the law of the land. I believe that because of past experience with changes to occupational health and safety regulations in this land.