

*Canada Labour Code*

is not the answer. The answer is that we must increase our productivity to create more wealth and power. Since this Government has come to power, Mr. Speaker, Canada has dropped its share of world trade by about 3 per cent, and 1 per cent of world trade represents a half million jobs. Three per cent represents 1.5 million jobs. That decline in world trade, that failure of this administration, is a major reason why we do not have an expanding economy and enough jobs.

There should be some hope in this Bill that we will have a safer workplace where there are not so many injuries with the accompanying loss of production hours. We should provide adequate social benefits so that people feel they are receiving justice and equity in the workplace. If we can create those kinds of conditions we will enhance productivity and inspire our workforce to meet that challenge. We can, in fact, accomplish those kinds of things, and if we can give confidence to our workers so that they believe it, and if we can regain our share of world trade, then we will be able to create the kind of labour climate where management can increase its profits, where labour can increase its wages and social benefits, and where our nation can again take its rightful place in the world economy. And I am not only suggesting that we can do just as well as we did before this Government came to power. I feel we can do more than just as well; I believe we can do better.

● (1140)

Our workforce is better educated. Unfortunately, it is not better trained to understand the reality of changing technology. Technology should be boosting this nation through research and development but it is not. The impact of technological change is a burden on our society instead of lifting it into the next century. This is where it really starts—the vision of more jobs in an expanding labour market, better working conditions, better wages and more profits for all elements of the workplace. But there is not hope, not from this Government. It has created the conditions I have described today. To quote from the *Vancouver Sun*:

At 30 years of age, Richard Bell of Castlegar can't remember the On-To-Ottawa trek by unemployed workers in 1935, but he has heard a lot about it from some of his neighbours who did make the long journey. Bell, himself an unemployed carpenter, is the spark plug of a new expedition by the jobless—this time dubbed the Off-To-Ottawa trek—that is preparing to leave Vancouver June 8.

Their goal is to arrive in Ottawa June 14 in time for the Liberal leadership convention, to convene a "gathering of the unemployed" to lobby the politicians for a jobs program.

They are coming here to lobby us for a jobs program, Mr. Speaker. That is what this is supposed to be leading to and setting the tone for. Canada will soon go to the polls and the number one campaign priority will be, as the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney) noted, "jobs, jobs, jobs" and the economic climate which first has to be created to allow jobs to happen. The Minister and his Government have failed to give that inspiration and leadership in the form of legislation. To go out in the country and meet with the leaders of our union and business communities, to inspire them to achieve what can and must be ours; to create a positive attitude through labour, management and government working to-

gether in a co-operative manner building towards those national goals; that is what the Government should be doing.

I can go into considerable detail, and I will cover some of those areas in a moment, but I want to say that I am pleased the Bill has come to second reading. There seems to be general agreement that it should go to committee where we can hear from those concerned. It has been suggested that everyone seems to go along with this. Well, what is seemed to go along with is something that is very little. I think when we get into committee we will find in this Bill many loopholes and areas which need change. Perhaps through that democratic process there will be some changes to make this legislation somewhat more acceptable. But there is not the time to develop the direction that Canadians need to underpin any code.

The Minister suggested that everyone thinks this Bill is a good one; therefore we should proceed quickly and pass it as it is. I do not think that is necessarily so. I, too, have received telegrams, not just the two in favour, and I think those should be recorded. I have a telegram here from Shirley Carr of the Canadian Labour Congress. She is an important spokesperson for labour in Canada and I recognize that importance by reading her telegram first:

I have to bring your attention most urgently to the following emergency resolution passed unanimously today by the 2300 delegates at the 15th biennial convention of the Canadian Labour Congress in Montreal.

Whereas Bill C-34... was introduced in the House of Commons on May 15th, 1984 and;

Whereas the NDP have consistently supported the adoption of this health and safety legislation before the end of the session, and;

Whereas the Government and the Official Opposition have failed to promote the passage of this legislation before the end of the session... to give the health and safety of Canadian workers the highest priority and commit themselves to adopt Bill C-34 before the summer recess.

I can agree with that last paragraph, Mr. Speaker, all the way through. We should try and pass such a bill. It is with some regret that we have to have the partisan format, and I would plead with the CLC to make labour issues less and less of a political issue and more and more of a national issue. I am not going to get into the partisan criticism implied by the telegram except to express regret for that part of the telegram while I agree with the substance.

I have another telegram, this time from Don Montgomery, regional action co-ordinator, Public Service Alliance of Canada. It reads as follows:

On behalf of twelve thousand members who work throughout southern British Columbia for the federal Government and are members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada we urge you and your colleagues to pass Bill C-34 without further delay. It promised us legal health and safety protection. There are only a few days left in this session. We do not want to be denied this protection which we badly need. You have previously received the Public Service Alliance of Canada "black paper" and we are certain you will agree the health and safety of Canadian workers should not be a partisan political issue. Put aside party politics and adopt Bill C-34.

I think that is a positive telegram, in keeping with the spirit which should exist here today, and I commend those who sent it. But the Minister only read the supportive telegrams. He failed to read the others; I know he has them because I have copies of what was sent to him. The first is from Mr. Masters, chairman of FETCO, who said: