

Canada Labour Code

then translated into French. It is a serious drawback for French, and international French should be used.

That is why I point out to the Minister of Labour the importance of a good French text and I urge him to review the remarks made by Mr. Robert Auclair who is one of the greatest experts in labour law that I know of in the province of Quebec.

[Text]

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great interest to the minister's remarks when he endeavoured to explain how this bill and how he and his department would deal, by way of regulations, with a number of matters that have been brought to the attention of members of the committee by employees and employers. However, I think he will have to be considerably clearer in his explanations before many employees and employers know just where they stand. I know that both employees and employers are extremely interested in this legislation. They have studied it carefully. As I said, many of our members have had representations made to them by grain elevator operators, by railway employees and by employees as well as employers in the trucking industry. I have had many representations made to me by people engaged in the aircraft industry as well as by those in the tractor freight hauling industry who operate interprovincially.

There is also a special case which arises within the mining industry. Many of the operations I have in mind involve a great deal of work in outlying areas—bush work, in other words—and the employees themselves, in these circumstances, have a strong and understandable desire to work for longer than eight hours. They cannot see the sense of going in to areas where there is nothing much to do except work and sleep, and still be limited to an eight hour day. I believe this has been pointed out to the minister. I am speaking now for the employees themselves, although a longer working day does make for a much more economic operation on the part of the employers. These arrangements can be worked out satisfactorily between employer and employee. The men can go into the bush and work for much longer hours than eight; they can get the job finished much more quickly, to the satisfaction both of themselves and of their employers.

In all the cases which have been brought to my attention the employees are just as much interested in the legislation we are considering now as are the employers. I believe

some of the things which the minister said need to be made much clearer. We have an amendment before us which deals directly with the clause we are now discussing. It is an amendment to clause 7 and it contains the words "except as may be otherwise prescribed by the regulations, hours of work in a week shall be so scheduled". When are these regulations to be drawn up and how are they to be drawn up? I know we are obliged to be relevant to the clause under consideration at the present time, but may I refer briefly to another amendment which has been handed to us? The amendment to clause 51 ends with the words—

—the governor in council, upon the recommendation of the minister and with or without an inquiry pursuant to section 35 may, by order, vary or amend from time to time any order made under such section (2) or extend from time to time any period fixed in any such order, or revoke any such order—

And so on. I am wondering whether these regulations are likely to cover some of the points I have specifically brought to the minister's attention. Consider, for example, the case of tractor trailer operators hauling goods interprovincially. It is impossible for them to confine their work to eight hours a day. How can they have stations throughout their haul so as to provide for new crews taking over these jobs at the end of eight hours? Then men must work around the clock to get the job completed. I wonder whether there is to be an exception made in such cases as these. The minister told us there would be deferment of the regulations with respect to certain industries or categories of work covered by this legislation. What does he mean by "deferment"? Will deferment take place only upon an application from the industry concerned or is there to be a definite deferment granted in respect of certain industries when the bill takes effect? I should like to have a fuller explanation of this aspect of the measure.

The minister also said that situations such as I have brought to the attention of the committee could probably be rectified by the issuing of permits. Would a special application have to be made in respect of each and every job or is there to be a "blanket" permit issued to particular industries covering their employees? I hope the minister can answer these questions before we are asked to vote on the clause before us.

On a number of occasions the bill uses the words "an industry in continuous operation". Can the minister assure us that the bill will spell out just what is considered to be continuous operation?