

Supply—Labour

banks including the Royal Bank, the Bank of Montreal, the Imperial Bank and the Toronto-Dominion Bank, and Crown companies including Atomic Energy, Polymer, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and several others. There is also listed a large number of flour and feed mills.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Chairman, surely the hon. member is not suggesting that because these companies applied for a deferment they received one?

Mr. Orlikow: One could get into a fine argument on semantics in this regard, but let me state that because they did not receive a deferment in no way means that they are now living up to the provisions of the code. This simply means that the provisions of the act have not been put into effect. If I am wrong in this regard I would be glad to have the minister correct me.

Mr. Nicholson: Does the hon. member not realize that parliament said this was the minister's responsibility and that a limited time would be allowed in which this had to be accomplished?

• (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Orlikow: Of course, Mr. Chairman, the minister is 100 per cent correct. If the government of the day had said: We are going to pass an act but we tell you right now it is going to take at least 18 months before anybody will benefit from it, I would have no objection. What I do object to is the hoax of going to the people, not with the Liberal party's money but with the money of the people of Canada, and spending \$185,000 to tell them of benefits which will not be given to them for another year. I object very strenuously to that.

I would like to continue, Mr. Chairman, because I think the public should be interested in some of the other industries which have not been brought under the act yet because their applications are still being studied or have been deferred. In all cases the effect is the same; the workers are not covered. They include the C.N.R. hotels, the pipe line companies such as Interprovincial and Trans-Northern, the Post Office Department's mail contractors, practically every private radio and television station, trucking firms in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and so on.

I pause in reading the list to say that I completely disagree with the course the minister took in regard to the trucking strike in

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Ontario. I am satisfied that if the minister, at any time after the strike started, had made an announcement that he would implement six months hence the provision of the code regarding hours, the strike would have been settled in half the time that it took because this was one of the biggest bones of contention. However, the minister refused to take the responsibility which I suggest he had.

The telephone and telegraph companies have not yet been covered nor have the railway companies and the Canadian Trucking Association. Quebecair is also not covered. I could go on and on.

I have examples of the companies and industries which are not yet covered. To the worker involved it does not really matter whether the reason he is given is that the implementation of the provisions was deferred or that the matter is still being considered. I would like the minister to tell hon. members how many workers and how many companies are covered because I suggest that to a large extent we have been and are up against the delaying tactics of the Liberal party.

I want to deal very briefly now with one other item. It is good to know that we are finally going to get some safety legislation to cover workers who are under federal jurisdiction. I am surprised that the bill was first introduced in the other place. It is good to know we are going to get this legislation and I hope it will come here soon. However, I hope that once it is passed the government will not forget about it. What I mean is simply this. I am sure that many other members from urban constituencies have received questions and complaints from railway and other workers who are under federal jurisdiction, people who work in diesel and machine shops who have complained about the smoke hazard, the fumes, bad air and poor lighting in their working areas.

I hope that when the legislation is passed the Department of Labour will hire sufficient inspectors to see that the law is lived up to or, if it is possible, that arrangements will be made with the provincial departments of labour to ensure that the act is adhered to. I hope that care will be taken to make sure that the provincial labour departments which are given this job obtain the necessary staff because, as one who served in the provincial legislature before coming to this house, I know that in my own province—and this is true of every other province—the provincial labour departments are badly understaffed. I