

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Order in council, P.C. 7680 of October 7, 1941, brings such men within the provisions of the compulsory reinstatement order, P.C. 4758.

Mr. GILLIS: I would be quite agreeable if this still remains within the jurisdiction of the Department of Pensions and National Health. Why is that not in the bill? My main objection to the bill is that it shifts responsibility which should remain with the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. MARTIN: Not necessarily; read section 11, subsection 2.

Mr. GILLIS: The trouble to-day is that so many boards are functioning and so many orders in council are passed we do not understand exactly where we are going. Before this war is on for another year we shall have to hire lawyers to sit at our elbows and interpret the laws of this country. I am not blaming the Minister of Labour for this, because I know he did not write it. The chances are that he disagrees with it as much as we do.

Mr. MITCHELL: I want to tell my hon. friend that I do not disagree with it as much as he does.

Mr. COLDWELL: It is just a matter of degree.

Mr. MITCHELL: It is not a matter of degree.

Mr. GILLIS: I do not want to waste any more time because we shall have an opportunity to discuss the sections in committee.

An hon. MEMBER: You have wasted enough.

Mr. GILLIS: That is your opinion. I earnestly suggest that the parliamentary committee which was set up by this house should continue to function in cooperation with the subcommittee that is functioning now. This whole matter of vocational training and everything pertaining to rehabilitation should remain under the Department of Pensions and National Health. I do not believe in giving bouquets, but since coming into this house my experience has been that in connection with any matter pertaining to ex-service men or any problem that I have had to present, the minister has been most efficient. He is on the job, and he understands the problem of the ex-service man, being one himself. This department has been working on this problem for two years, and it should remain there.

Mr. J. H. HARRIS (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, my first observation is to welcome our old colleague (Mr. Mitchell) back in the house in the position which he now holds.

Perhaps we all look forward on behalf of Canada and our people particularly for some legislation of merit which will take some cognizance of the human element in our population rather than letting ourselves drift so easily into the channel of matters which are materialistic. I feel that this bill is only one step among many others, some of which have been taken and many more which will have to be taken before the unemployment probability becomes a problem. Yes; I would say more; we may not have an opportunity to face this problem if we do not conduct ourselves in the matter of the affairs of the nation in connection with one major matter which is in the minds, not only of us assembled here but of all the Canadian people. The fact that there is a war on, that the world is in flames; let us get through with legislation of this kind as quickly and as expeditiously as possible.

My words will be brief. I hesitate even to recite some of the ideas that run through my mind with regard to what will happen when the war is over. Where are these employers going to be? Some may be in bankruptcy and others will be out of business. As one generation succeeds another, many will fall by the wayside. This bill only touches, as someone said a moment or two ago, the fringe of the matters that are concerned. Let us then relate this bill to the war effort. Let us be sincere and genuine in anything that we promise these soldiers when they return. Do not promise them that certain things will happen when they return just to get them in the army, but rather establish confidence in them so that when they are in the army they will know, as the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Shaw) said, that their places in business or in the employment market will be ready for them when they return. Not only that, but establish confidence in those who are left behind—the mothers, brothers, sisters and others—so that the morale of our people may be kept on a very high plane.

The hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) referred to the new order. The new order is already here, or what parts of it are not here are coming along very fast; we welcome them and are anxious that they shall prevail. We consider the employment of these men when they return; of course we do. Is there one of us whose pleasure it is to have a payroll who has not said to his employee when he enlisted, "Good luck, and God be with you; and when you come back, as we pray God you will, you will be put back to your job with all the seniority rights which go along with it." A little while ago the hon. member for Red Deer made a speech, the first half of which was very good; but as