

inspection where the information is confidential. What is good for the goose is certainly good for the gander. We are attempting to cooperate by giving unions and employers an opportunity to know what is in the mind of the government with respect to its plans, so that they can meet the exigencies of the situation. This is the purpose of the motion.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) about this particular amendment. I had hoped that he would have spoken to the point this afternoon. As hon. members know, he is appearing before the Standing Committee on Agriculture. He has asked me to give his explanation.

As the hon. member pointed out, clause 34J indicates that employers and trade unions of the country must cooperate with the Department of Manpower and Immigration by providing:

—any information requested by it for the purpose of assisting employees to whom the notice relates and shall cooperate with that Department to facilitate the re-establishment in employment of those employees.

We are talking about a group notice which is incorporated in the bill elsewhere and which is not subject to amendment. Therefore, we have not discussed it today. We are suggesting, for the first time in the federal field, that employers intending to lay off groups of people must give advance notice, not only to those employees but also to the Department of Manpower and Immigration in order that the facilities of that department be placed at the disposal of Manpower employees and trade unions. The purpose of the amendment is to make sure that the cooperation is reciprocal and that not only should the employer and employees provide the Department of Manpower with what is needed, but the Department of Manpower should provide the employer and employees with whatever assistance they may feel they need.

The Minister of Manpower and Immigration is very appreciative and understands quite well what the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) intends to do. Nevertheless, with a degree of justification, he feels that this is spelled out in the responsibilities of the Department of Manpower. The basic concept of the Department of Manpower is that this information be made available to employers and unions. The very fact that we are asking for this type of cooperation from management and labour indicates that the reverse is equally true. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration would prefer not to see this in the act. He feels that in the mandate of the Department of Manpower it is understood that this information shall and must be available. Indeed, it would be impossible for the Department of Manpower to even function if at the same time it refused this type of cooperation with the employers and employees of this country.

I am wondering if the hon. member might consider withdrawing his amendment. I have the assurance of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and I also give that assurance, that just as we have placed this responsibility on the Department of Manpower to place all its

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facilities at the disposal of its employees affected by layoffs, the underlying philosophy of this particular addition to the Canada Labour (Standards) Code is that by providing group notice, there shall be as much advance notice of lay-offs as possible. All the facilities of the Department of Manpower might be brought to bear.

As the hon. member knows, frequently employers do not give as much notice as they could. This makes it virtually impossible for the Department of Manpower to go into action and minimize the effects of the layoffs, if only by providing people with knowledge of other jobs and providing the Unemployment Insurance Commission with advance notice to prepare unemployment insurance where applicable. I think that it must be understood that the Departments of Labour and Manpower will cooperate. It is therefore unnecessary to include it in the bill. I would prefer to see the amendment withdrawn.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The question is on motion No. 4 standing in the name of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander). All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** My opinion the nays have it.

**Some hon. Members:** On division.

Motion No. 4 (Mr. Alexander) negatived.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour)** moved that Bill C-228, to amend the Canada Labour (Standards) Code, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** When shall the bill be read a third time?

**Some hon. Members:** By leave, now.

**Mr. Mackasey** moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

**Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few general remarks on third reading of this bill. I attended the committee meetings when the bill was being discussed. I did not hear all the briefs that were submitted because, unfortunately, I was involved in meetings of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications at the same time. However, I have read the briefs that were submitted.