

Canada Labour Code

I will come back to it later. I will now move on to the next amendment, again with the understanding that if it is not here in sufficient time we will proceed with the wording of the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I then move on to page 20, section 84.1. I propose to move the deletion of paragraph (4), seconded by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen):

That paragraph (4) of section 84.1 be deleted and the following wording substituted therefor:

(4) The powers and functions of the committee are:

(a) the receipt, consideration and expeditious disposition of complaints relating to the health and safety of employees represented by the committee;

I should qualify here by saying that this wording is identical to a motion put earlier by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). The amendment continues to read:

(b) the maintaining of records pertaining to the disposition of complaints relating to the health and safety of employees represented by the committee;

(c) the receipt, consideration and expeditious disposition of each safety officer's report, including any recommendation for closing down based on unsafe working conditions;

(d) co-operating with any occupational health service established to serve the place of employment;

(e) establishment and promotion of health and safety programs for the education of the employees represented by the committee;

(f) participation in all inquiries and investigations on matters pertaining to occupational health and safety, including such consultations as may be necessary with persons who are professionally or technically qualified to advise the committee on such matters;

(g) developing, establishing and maintaining programs, measures and procedures for the protection or improvement of the health and safety of employees;

(h) monitoring programs, measures and procedures related to the health and safety of employees on a regular basis;

(i) ensuring that adequate records are kept on work accidents and injuries and health hazards and monitored data obtained therefrom on a regular basis;

(j) co-operating with government safety officers;

(k) requesting from an employer or any other person acting on his behalf such information as the committee considers necessary to identify existing or potential hazards with respect to materials, processes or equipment;

(l) full access to all government and employer reports relating to the health and safety of the employees represented by the committee.

In the same motion, if it is permissible, we will move the deletion of the present paragraph (5) and substituting in lieu thereof a new paragraph (5) which reads as follows:

(5) A committee shall keep accurate records of all matters that come before it pursuant to subsection 84.1(4) and shall keep minutes of its meetings and shall make such minutes and records available to the safety officer on his request.

We will also move the substitution of paragraph (6) by the following:

(6) A committee shall meet during regular working hours at least once each month and, where meetings are required on an urgent basis as a result of an emergency or other special circumstance, the committee shall meet as required whether or not during regular working hours.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

We will also move the deletion of the present paragraph (7) and the substitution of the following:

(7) A member of a committee is entitled to such time from his work as is necessary to attend meetings or to carry out any other functions as a member of the committee, and any time spent by the member while carrying out any of his functions as a member of the committee shall, for the purpose of calculating wages owing to him, be deemed to have been spent at his work.

● (1432)

Further I propose to move the addition of subclause 12 which reads as follows:

Subject to subsection (9), a committee may establish its own rules of procedure in respect of the terms of office not exceeding two years of its members, the time, place and frequency of regular meetings of a committee, and establishing such procedures for its operation as it considers advisable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: This is the first time the Chair is cognizant of this amendment. If we want to follow the normal procedure, it should be split in such a way as to amend one clause of the bill at a time. If there is a disposition to have the Chair put it in this manner, it would be done only as an exceptional procedure for the purpose of saving time. I invite comments from hon. members.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think there is less embarrassment if we put this one rather than some of the others. Most of the wording of this one is the same wording as motion No. 2 in the name of the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Rightly so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Am I to assume that the Chair is being asked to put the motion as it is, and as an exceptional procedure in order to assist the proceedings at report stage?

It is moved by Mr. Munro (Hamilton East), seconded by Mr. Cullen—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, there was an understanding that this was to be moved in the name of the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, that is quite acceptable. I thought the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) indicated, if I moved it, that it would be acceptable, as long as the House is fully cognizant. It does not matter.

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): I move it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I second it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Therefore Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moves that Bill C-8 be amended in the form as just read by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro).

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) for seeing the benefit of clearly establishing the terms of reference and the duties of safety and health committees in the bill, rather than leaving it to regula-