

Canada Labour Code

took place. I would want to see these questions raised with the Minister when he is before the committee and to know why it has not gone further than it has.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): Are there any further questions or comments? Debate.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments today with respect to this proposed piece of legislation. I was struck this morning by the June 5 press release from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ouellet) in which he announced the creation of a \$5 million fund to support research into human and social impacts of technological change in the workplace. I would guess there is no Hon. Member in this Chamber who feels more strongly than I do that it is time this country made a greater commitment to the examination of how new technologies are affecting the workplace. However, the timing of this press announcement is peculiar. It is dated June 5, 1984, at a time when there is a lot of speculation that we will be into an election by the end of June, 1984.

I was struck by the fact, Mr. Speaker, that in his press release the Minister of Labour indicates that it is a response to the piece of research which was done by his Department called *In the Chips*. That was a report, Mr. Speaker, which came into this Chamber well over two years ago. So it has taken the Minister of Labour well over two years to respond. He has responded with a \$5 million pot of money, but if one reads the press release carefully, one finds he does not tell us whether the \$5 million is to be spent in one year, two years or over ten years. So we really do not know how large it is. However, we know it is a nice shiny white paper, with a nice red border, and it makes the Minister of Labour look good, like he cares, that he really wants to do something.

This whole Bill, Mr. Speaker, is somewhat in that category. I cannot help but think back over the debates we have had over the last month or two in this Chamber. We had the Special Employment Initiatives Projects, which came up again today in question period, a \$300 million slush fund which Liberal Members were spending in their own ridings, 147 ridings, when there are actually 282 ridings in this country. We heard about the use of those slush funds to create first-class and second-class unemployed persons in this country. The Government has money for direct job creation, Mr. Speaker, but if someone wants to participate in that program, if someone wants to try for one of those jobs, he had better live in a Liberal riding. That is where most of the jobs are. It probably would not hurt if you were a friend of the Liberal Member of Parliament as well. That might be of some assistance in getting those jobs.

● (1520)

I cannot help but think also of the millions of dollars spent on advertising recently. In the south shore, in Quebec, pictures of eight Members of Parliament, all Liberals, were printed on three-colour glossy paper expounding on the marvellous things those Members of Parliament have been doing. Well, that

expounding has been done with taxpayers' dollars. Not donated dollars from the Liberal Party of Canada but taxpayers' dollars. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts) had his picture in a really nice 16-page insert. In fact there were two, one for youth and one for women. It was a nice picture of the Minister who just happens to be a candidate for the Liberal leadership. Those people are sitting at home, they have not had a job, and they are feeling pretty depressed. Then they get the brochures and it looks like an opportunity. You can almost feel the growth of hope in those people. But it is a scam. When they show up at the Canada Manpower Centres they find out the budget has been spent and these training programs do not really exist. That is a very cruel thing to do to the unemployed of this country.

In the last two or three months we have seen far too much electioneering on the backs of those who are to some extent down and out, the unemployed, and the labour unions who are in trouble. We heard earlier today that the money for the Special Recovery Capital Projects Program has not been allocated. It has been held back so there can be announcements during the 50-day election period. Of course, the money does not get spent and the jobs are not created until later, but you make it sound as if you are creating jobs today. That is what the Government is going to make it sound like but the jobs will not be there.

Four years ago the Government indicated that the need for amendments to the Canada Labour Code was urgent. Today, June 11, 1984, we are finally debating those amendments in the House of Commons, more than four years later. The last two times the Canada Labour Code was amended by this Government, the amendments were brought in during the last 30 days of the life of the Parliament. There seems to be a conspiracy going back over decades where labour legislation is discussed in the last 30 days of a Parliament, in the middle of a leadership race when it is difficult to get information on anything except leadership candidates. The attitude is that we should be discussing labour legislation in private. Well, it is a subject they do not want to discuss in public. I suggest that the Conservative Party of Canada wants labour legislation discussed in public because we have been doing our homework. There is no resource in this country of more interest to the Conservative Party than the resource called people. If we are going to have a decent standard of living in the future, then it is hard-working and creative, well-trained people who are going to provide that kind of a future.

The introduction of technological change in the workplace is a topic which is becoming more and more popular. Recently a couple of us in the Conservative Party completed a task force report and this is a summary of our findings on technological displacement and the issue of manpower training and retraining. It took us quite a few months and a lot of hard work. One of the things we discovered is that, regardless of the country you are taking about, when there is co-operation between management and labour, when they work together to see that new technology is introduced in a humane, caring and produc-