

committee advisers from the Department of Labour were to come forward with proposals for other ways of carrying out the principle. That is the reason I have given the commitment that if this house will approve this bill in principle by voting for it on second reading, I will not try to rush it through the committee of the whole house but will move that it be referred to the standing committee on industrial relations.

I am sure all those who know me will give me full marks for keeping my promise to try to set a pattern of brevity. I present this bill to the house. It is something I am sure we all support and I hope that it will receive the endorsement of the house.

**Mr. Gordon Chaplin (Waterloo South):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak today as a new member of the house I realize that this bill which has been presented by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), or one very similar to this, has been placed before the house on several occasions in the past. As a manufacturer from a relatively high cost labour area I am very much in sympathy with the principle involved in the bill. From a personal standpoint I should like to see a standard minimum wage that extended across Canada because there are many times when the lack of such a minimum wage makes it very difficult to compete in certain operations and with certain products that are manufactured in other parts of Canada at what would appear to be exceedingly low labour rates.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has already mentioned it, but I would point out that a Conservative government under the late R. B. Bennett passed legislation that attempted to cover a wide area in regard to minimum wages. This legislation was challenged by the then incoming Liberal administration, which placed the legislation before the courts where it was ruled ultra vires. In the light of this, it would appear to me that the provinces have the right in a general way to apply minimum wages.

I do not think that the bill goes far enough to be of any real significance, in all fairness to the member who introduced it and I do not think that under our constitutional set-up any such bill that we pass here can be effective. Let us look at the classifications of employees that the bill purports to serve or help in any way. I refer to page 2 of the bill, clause 3 where, under "application of the act", there is the following:

(a) works, undertakings, or businesses operated or carried on for or in connection with navigation and shipping, whether inland or maritime, including the operation of ships and transportation by ship anywhere in Canada;

(b) railways, canals, telegraphs and other works and undertakings connecting a province with any other or others of the provinces, or extending beyond the limits of a province;

(c) lines of steam and other ships connecting a province with any other or others of the provinces or extending beyond the limits of a province;

(d) ferries between any province and any other province or between any province and any country other than Canada;

(e) aerodromes, aircraft and lines of air transportation;

(f) radio broadcasting stations;

(g) banks and banking.

In the first place, I doubt very much whether banks and banking should be included in a bill of this kind. Be that as it may, let us take the railways. Railways in this country are highly organized from the standpoint of labour. The railway unions are old, very well established and highly respected and they have done an exceedingly good job in looking after the interests of their membership. In my opinion, sir, the purposes of this bill simply do not apply in this area.

Let us take shipping as another example. This bill surely does not apply here. We all know that the chaotic condition of shipping on the great lakes is due to the activity of certain predatory unions. But this is nothing that \$1.25 an hour is going to correct.

Then we come to aircraft, air transportation, telegraphers and broadcasting stations. In the vast majority of these cases I doubt very much whether this bill applies to any great or important extent. In looking at the bill I do not believe that it goes so far as to govern crown corporations. But let us suppose it does and let us take the case of Polymer. There again from the standpoint of labour the employees are very highly organized. The corporation is competing for employees and has to pay up to the best going rates in that particular area.

It may surprise some of the members opposite to know that in many areas of this country today it is very hard to get employees. I know that the Liberals opposite have been trying so hard for so long to sell a depression in this country that they now believe it themselves. However, there are many areas in the country that do need the protection, such as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has described, that is offered by an adequate standard minimum wage. I should like to follow his thinking and reasoning a little further by referring to the provincial minimum wage orders which illustrate the point he was making. From this publication I note that in Newfoundland the minimum wage is 50 cents an hour for males and 35 cents an hour for females.