

*Department of Labour Act*

Chair to consider. I would suggest that the hon. member for Calgary West try to edge a little closer to the subject matter of the bill before us.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to come right down the throat.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Not mine!

**Mr. Hawkes:** Not Your Honour's. How about the minister's?

When standing up in this House, I sometimes feel that it is a great compliment for someone to attempt to insult oneself, because I think it is always revealing of the character of the person who is doing the delivering, and we then provide a piece of behavioural evidence. Canadians who sit in our galleries or watch their televisions can judge for themselves as to who shall or shall not be believed and under what circumstances.

**Mr. Blais:** I have been watching you for the past 25 minutes.

**Mr. Hawkes:** I would like to come right to the central point, and perhaps it is my final point, because I think it is critical. A good part of my professional life has been spent as a researcher who required information given freely and voluntarily by people so that hopefully I could write reports or make suggestions for this government and others which would be helpful to them in decision-making. There is nothing more critical in securing accurate information than a feeling on the part of those who have that information that they can trust the people to whom they give it and that it will be used responsibly. At the first tiny demonstration that the recipient of that information is not using that information responsibly, they cease to provide accurate information. That is the inherent flaw in this bill, that when a single individual who serves partisan interests is given this kind of responsibility to collect and disseminate, ultimately, sooner or later, those who have the information will begin to give false information if required, and no information if not required, and the nation will not be well served.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine):** Mr. Speaker, I will be brief in asking a few questions of the minister on Bill S-4, as it says that the government requires statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labour. I would like to discuss a condition with him which was brought to my attention in Winnipeg last Saturday when the president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace workers contacted me about a serious labour problem in that union. He also brought to my attention the fact that the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon) has also brought this matter to the attention of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan). I would just like to read the contents of a letter which the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta wrote to the Minister of Labour regarding the problems with the IAM union.

● (1540)

The letter to the minister reads:

I have now received from Mr. Marc Lapointe, QC, a copy of the "Reasons for Decision" arising from the Hearing of the foregoing application before the Canadian Labour Relations Board on July 9-11 and November 4 and 5, 1980.

Mr. Minister, I have never in my life seen a rendering of judgment from a government board which is so filled with veiled insults, childish vindictiveness and absolute socialistic piousness, as is reflected in the aforementioned document, of which I have attached a marked copy.

The document casts scurrilous invective at the integrity and good will of the applicants, who are valued employees of the taxpayers of Canada. In his attempt to suppress the individualistic instincts and human pride of these persons, the author has chosen to use language which might have been extracted from the Communist manifesto!

As a professional person myself, I find it regrettable that well-compensated members of a semi-judicial board should allow such an unprofessional document to go forward in their names. They have insulted the integrity of all Air Line Technicians. Such comments as "their attitude reflected a degree of selfishness which fails to appreciate the true basis of collective action to democratize the work place" and "rather than turn their energies to the benefit of all, they seek to enhance only their well-being through CALATA" bely a strongly Communist bias.

The suggestion that "they (CALATA) want to be viewed as referees or managers, while still retaining superstar status" is the sort of drivel one might expect from a ten-year-old child.

The belittling of CALATA's paramount concern for air travel safety is intolerable.

Mr. Minister, the Aircraft Technicians of CALATA have every right under the laws and proposed Constitution of this country to form their own collective bargaining unit. They are entitled to the right of free association. Many other collective bargaining units exist in this country with fewer than 243 members, including the Canadian Airline Dispatchers Association with only 56 members.

I would like to point out that this will also concern the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin). They, too, are concerned with the air safety problems within Air Canada. The letter continues:

I hope you will read the attached statement "Reasons for Decision" and take note of my comments in the margins. It is a totally biased document, laden with value judgments and devoid of any factual evidence of justification for the decision rendered.

I demand that the author of this document be fired, and that the applicants be granted a new hearing. Such serious misdemeanor cannot be left unchallenged and accordingly, I intend to raise this matter in the House of Commons.

I have raised the matter in advance, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta will also raise it.

I would like to hear from the Minister of Labour as to what action he will be taking in response to this letter. Perhaps he will volunteer some information as to what action he proposes with regard to the very serious labour problems with the IAM union.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** If the House wishes to revert to some form of Question Period under rules I do not know, I must advise hon. members that we will need unanimous consent to do so. I heard the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) indicate that he had several questions. This is not committee stage of the bill. Perhaps the hon. member could indicate to the Chair just what procedure he has in mind before I can encourage that type of question and answer.