

*Canada Labour (Standards) Code*

believe it is necessary to review government policies over the past three years as they have been brought before Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member because it is four o'clock. It being four o'clock, the House is required to consider private members' business.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

## CANADA LABOUR (STANDARDS) CODE

## PROVISION FOR THREE WEEKS ANNUAL VACATION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)** moved that Bill C-41, to amend the Canada Labour (Standards) Code (three weeks annual vacation after three years) be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

• (4:00 p.m.)

He said: Mr. Speaker, we have spent the day dealing with a matter that relates to the well-being of a group of workers known as Members of Parliament. I am happy now to present a bill that is concerned with the well-being of all workers who come under federal labour jurisdiction. I think it is appropriate to discuss this kind of bill at the conclusion of this kind of day. I suggest it is also appropriate for this bill to be before us this week in view of the fact that a few days ago we gave second reading to another bill to amend the Canada Labour (Standards) Code, a bill which we have already sent to committee. However, that bill does not include any reference to the aspect of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code covered in this bill of mine, so perhaps the House will want to be logical and consistent and send this bill to that committee as well so that the whole job can be done at once.

The purpose of this bill is to amend that part of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code that provides for annual vacations with pay. As I said the other day when we were debating the other bill, we have had for a number of years legislation providing for annual vacations with pay for all workers who are in industries which come under federal labour jurisdiction.

For many years I have initiated bills on the Order Paper asking that this be done. Finally it was made law by the government under the direction of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) when his Minister of Labour, Hon. Michael Starr, brought in a bill providing for annual vacations with pay. That first bill provided for a vacation of one week after one year of service with the same employer, and then two weeks after two years' of service with the same employer.

As hon. members will recall, some of us thought that it was unfair to make workers wait for two years before getting two weeks' vacation with pay, so in due course under a Liberal government the Michael Starr bill was amended and we now have the provision that there are

[Mr. Burton.]

to be two weeks' vacation with pay for workers under federal labour jurisdiction after one year of service.

I pause to put in the word of explanation that seems to have to be made very time we debate legislation respecting workers who come under federal labour jurisdiction. Almost every time, somewhere in the press a story appears that implies that we are talking only about public servants, those who work for the federal government. This is not the case at all. We are talking about employees in industries such as railroading and other forms of transportation, broadcasting, banking, and so on, those industries of the country which by the terms of the British North America Act come under federal labour jurisdiction. Actually, the groups of employees so covered comprise only about one-tenth of the working force, the other nine-tenths coming under the various provincial labour laws. However, it is important that a lead be given in this area, and that is what has been done by the federal government a number of times.

The purpose of this bill is to make one more little improvement. It is so little that it ought not to take any time at all. One might ask me why I did not put more into this bill. If you put two, three or four subjects into a bill, Mr. Speaker, there are members who get up and say that they agree with some parts of the bill but not all. Therefore, I have limited it—

**Mr. Cullen:** Sounds familiar.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** My hon. friend who has not been here very long is already able to say that that sounds familiar. Since he is out of his place, I gather that when it comes to his turn to talk-out the bill he will have to go to his seat at the other end of the chamber. I was saying that the purpose of this bill is to provide that after three years' service with the same employer, an employee ought to have three weeks' vacation with pay. How can anyone say "No" to that? How can anyone, even my genial friend from Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen), talk-out such a proposal? I am sure he agrees with it.

There is one amendment that might be made to this motion for second reading which would not be offensive, and that is that instead of reading the bill for the second time the subject matter might be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration so it can be dealt with at the same time as we are dealing with the other amendments being made to the labour code.

Each time this bill has come up for debate it has been "loved to death" by those who say it is a good idea. I hope today that the love for it will not be quite so fatal but, rather, that the House will agree to refer either the bill itself or its subject matter to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

**Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, the mover of this bill is an expert manipulator of the rules and procedures of the House of Commons. Realizing that a private member cannot introduce a bill which would impose upon the treasury an expenditure, he has moved that Bill C-41, an act to amend the Canada Labour