

Adjournment Debate

quality increase in the order of less than 10 per cent. And I know what I am talking about, because as my colleague from Louis-Hébert (Mr. Dawson) suggested in Sainte-Rosalie, there are many in the Saint-Hyacinthe area, and we know that the Coopérative fédérée has enormous silos.

Anyway, that improvement brings indirect benefits to producers. Elevator operators derive financial advantages that lower their handling costs. Once in the elevators, we know that grain can be conditioned, and it can be mixed, with the exception of the two higher classes of red spring wheat. For example, let us take the case of a wagon of No. 3 "out of grade" wheat from western Canada. It is classified grade 3 because of some pebbles, and was brought from a farmer by the representative of a regional elevator. Once cleaned, that wheat is mixed with ordinary grade 3 wheat from western Canada, which improves the quality of the original grain. Here is another example: a farmer ships a load of No. 1 wheat—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

● (2210)

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS—NEWFOUNDLAND—REPORTED DECISION OF PROVINCE TO RESERVE OIL RIG JOBS FOR NEWFOUNDLANDERS

Mr. John Gamble (York North): Mr. Speaker, it is most propitious that this adjournment debate should occur in the midst of the constitutional debate with which the House is presently confronted. I am particularly delighted that it has, having regard to the fact I have not yet had an opportunity to speak on the current resolution. On May 26 in the question period, I had occasion to refer to a statement made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Regan) at a Winnipeg conference at which he was quoted as having said:

—provincial moves such as Newfoundland's decision to reserve jobs on oil rigs for Newfoundlanders do more to damage Canada in the long run than any nationalism that has surfaced inside Quebec.

I would ask the minister whether he would acknowledge that in following the procedures it has, the government of Newfoundland has simply followed the practice in the province of Quebec under legislation which precluded Ontario construction workers from gaining employment in that province. The minister in part responded by saying:

—I happen to believe that the essence of this country is having a common market in which Canadians can move to another part of the country and be employed without restrictions on the basis of what province they come from.

Typically, of course, the minister did not respond to the question. There has been a silence of a profound nature with respect to the conduct of the government of the province of Quebec in connection with breaches of our present constitution and inroads made into what would have been expected to be the goodwill that would exist between the provinces of this country. It is easy to enumerate them.

They have as a result of the imposition of a special retail tax on Ontario construction equipment which enters the province

of Quebec for construction in that province specifically breached the provisions of section 121 of the British North America Act as part of our constitution. That province has, as I indicated in asking that question of the minister, in addition specifically prevented construction workers from any province, and in particular the province of Ontario, entering the province of Quebec for the purpose of carrying on the legitimate activities of their employers with construction contracts in that province.

The province of Quebec has, contrary to the specific provisions of section 133 of the British North America Act as part of our constitution, imposed restriction on the use of language in the courts and in the legislature of the province of Quebec. In addition, they have been the beneficiary of inaction by the present federal government against the desires and expressed wishes of the province of Newfoundland, under the authority of the federal government, to impose on a public federal works project across Canada or any part of it for the purpose of transmitting hydroelectric power from the lower Churchill to some part of the United States. Yet the federal government has with ease taken those necessary steps under a national works project to allow a pipeline both for natural gas and petroleum products from western Canada into the province of Quebec. That created no problem.

It is a legitimate concern of all Canadians that equity, fair play and justice be enforced by the Government of Canada against all those which breach not only the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law in Canada. No province should be singled out for special preferential treatment, yet this has been the case.

● (2215)

Where has the Minister of Labour specifically laid out condemnation against the action which directly resulted in the action taken by the province of Newfoundland? That province has had a good teacher. The province of Quebec did what it did with impunity. Other provinces in this country can expect to do the same with the same results, unless equity, fair play and justice are put in place and implemented by the Government of Canada. I know we will hear that the current legislation before this House answers all the difficulties and problems. If I may refer to proposed section 6(2), you will find there that it states:

Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right

- (a) to move to and take up residence in any province; and
- (b) to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province.

That is not what the minister said. The minister said "to move to any part of the country and be employed". In order to be employed you not only have to move to but take up residence in, and the term residence has a specific legal meaning defined by the Supreme Court of Canada on a number of occasions. It would not apply in my submission to construction workers from the province of Ontario who move to the province of Quebec.