

Industrial Relations Act

the blues, which is not permitted. I do not have any blues so I will not read from them.

An hon. Member: You are in the blues.

Mr. Knowles: I have not even seen the blues. The Minister of National Health and Welfare tells us that the Minister of Labour said he hoped the matter would go to committee as soon as possible. He stops with the word "hoped". Most of us were here and we heard the exchanges that took place. When the minister was asked by the hon. member for Halifax whether he was willing for it to go before or after, he said before. Several times during exchanges with the hon. member for Ontario the minister said, yes, before. On one occasion when he was put into a bit of a corner he said, the subject matter. Well, that is clear; the two things mean the same thing, sending the bill before second reading or sending the subject matter of the bill. It means sending the bill or its subject matter to a committee before the bill has had approval in principle on second reading.

I submit, Mr. Chairman, that when we see *Hansard* tomorrow it will be very clear that the Minister of Labour made a commitment to this committee that the bill would be sent before we had the debate on second reading. Now, for the Minister of Labour to say that commitment is altered because of one speech of mine—boy, I am going to buy copies of *Hansard* for today and send them all over the country. One speech, and I have altered the position of the government. I hope I can do that tomorrow on something else.

An hon. Member: Stanley for leader.

Mr. Knowles: Pas encore.

An hon. Member: Jamais.

Mr. Knowles: Jamais, oui. The Minister of Labour likes to quote the sentence in which I said I was against this bill and if we got it in committee we would tear it up. He suggests that I stopped there, but I did not stop there. I still believe that this bill, as the minister has outlined it to us, should be torn up and that it should be replaced by a better bill that would deal with the problems that are posed by the minister as well as by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. We should have a bill that deals with the important and pressing problems which I outlined a few minutes ago. To suggest, however, that because I want to get the bill drastically altered in committee the government has a right to go back on its commitment to the

[Mr. Knowles.]

committee of the whole is another subterfuge and, as the Leader of the Opposition says, is another example of the reason the Canadian people do not have confidence in this government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the position of the government was clear when the Minister of Labour stated it. He repeated it three or four times. I suggest that commitment should be carried through and that this bill, before second reading, must go to a committee so the committee can produce a much better bill than the one which has been proposed this afternoon.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I am going to let the house leader in on a little secret. I watched him skittering around from seat to seat at the end of the speech delivered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre stated that when we got the bill in committee we would do a job on it. The Minister of Labour interpreted these remarks to mean we were going to do a hatchet job on it, which may or may not be the case. As most hon. members know, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has been the whip of our party for quite a while. Traditionally, of course, the whip is a person of whom we stand in awe. I should like to let the Minister of National Health and Welfare know despite this I am apparently not as much afraid of him as is the minister.

• (5:50 p.m.)

I think the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has in part at least, put in perspective what he said, if the minister will consider the full context of his speech rather than simply the last few sentences. He dealt with what we in this party often view as a vacuum in a piece of government legislation. The minister will recall that the hon. member dwelt at some length on the fact that there was no suggestion that any of the principles of the Freedman commission report would be included in the bill.

I share his disappointment that in respect of matters that are really important to the working people of this country the proposal in the resolution, as we understand it, is so barren. I am sure that this disappointment is shared by all members of the New Democratic party in this house. I do not think the Minister of Labour should construe the closing remarks of the speech of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre as meaning