

*The Address—Mr. Ouellet*

fighting for the right to unionize. Of course, it will be the responsibility of my colleague, the President of the Privy Council to determine the type of legislation that could be introduced in this House and also to discuss the scope, breadth and terms of such legislation with representatives of the two opposition parties. It is my hope that such an initiative will receive support from all sides of the House and the legislation will be enacted soon.

Concerning the issue of which groups will be covered by that bill, it seems clear that the support staff of the House, the Senate and the Library should be covered. Other employees also should be included, and I feel this should be discussed with representatives of all parties in this House.

On the second question, whether the centre will be independent from the Government, I alluded to tomorrow's announcement because I welcome the progress which has been accomplished in that area. We put the idea forward, but we feel it is essential, for its viability and success, that the main parties involved set up the centre themselves. It would not be a total success if it were a Government entity. And fortunately, I can tell the Hon. Member that I do not think he will be disappointed tomorrow when labour and business representatives announce their common desire to unite to establish such a centre, which of course will be independent and separated from the Government, but substantially funded by the Government of Canada.

[English]

**Mr. Heap:** Mr. Speaker, I very much welcome the remarks of the Minister, although he did not actually respond to the previous question as to whether support staff for Members of Parliament and members of the Senate will be included in the Bill. I am not speaking formally for my group, but I can say to him informally that I believe he will have full support from this part of the House for any legislation that affords the right of workers to unionize. We have expressed that view many times already, even if the legislation were not to include the staff of Members of Parliament and members of the Senate. However, I would be very disappointed if the legislation put forward did not include those. I hope that will be taken quite seriously following the lead of the Speaker.

I also welcome the general remarks of the Minister about the place of labour and organized labour. They follow very well on the comments made a year ago by the bishops about the principle of labour, which is not the same as unions. I refer to the principle that work has to be recognized as giving people a right to share in decision making.

● (1150)

I therefore have two questions for the Minister. When the workers, through the unions and perhaps through other institutions also, have been given an opportunity to participate in the examination of the effects of the new technologies, will there be a mechanism to enable them to share in the actual decision making regarding the application of those new technologies? I have in mind the present principle that exists and is reflected

in most labour contracts, the principle of management rights. In effect, if management wants to shut the plant down or change the product or something, it has almost an unlimited right to do so. In the post office, for example, new technologies are introduced or changed without any recognized or practised right of the union, as far as I know, to have a share in the decision making regarding those technologies.

Will this new legislation recognize the right of the workers who after all contributed, if not all, a large part, of the new technology? Will they have a right to share in the decision making?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member's question and comment is being stretched beyond what is reasonable. Perhaps we could allow the Minister to respond and if any time is left and no other Members rise, I will recognize the Hon. Member again.

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises two very specific questions concerning the contents of the legislation which is to be introduced. I have taken note of his representations. In both cases, it is very difficult for me at this point to elaborate on the exact wording of either bill.

I would therefore invite him to be patient and postpone his comments and discussions until the two pieces of legislation are tabled. I would simply tell him that I appreciate his representations, and commend him for this.

[English]

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief supplementary question about the Minister's concern for the right of collective association. Would he care to indicate whether he extends that same philosophy and principle to the Governor General's staff, members of the RCMP and members of the Canadian Armed Forces?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are situations steeped into century-old traditions, and the Hon. Member is now referring to institutions that have always been fiercely defended by his own party. I would be very much interested to know whether he is speaking on behalf of the Progressive Conservative party when putting forward such proposals. Personally, I am very comfortable with that, but I would like to know whether the Hon. Member from the Progressive Conservative party truly can speak on behalf of his party when making such proposals.

[English]

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your elevation to the position of Deputy Speaker of the House. I also want to congratulate and wish well the new Speaker of the House, the Hon. Member of Ottawa West (Mr. Francis). I should like also to pay tribute to the retiring Speaker, the next Governor General, for her efforts as Speaker of the House of Commons. I wish her well.