

Canada Labour Code, has examined the said bill and has directed me to report the same without amendment.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Paul D. David, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(b), moved that the bill be read the third time now.

Motion agreed to and bill read third time and passed.

HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING CO., LIMITED ACT

BILL TO AMEND—CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On the Order:

The Senate in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-98, to amend an act respecting the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

The Senate was accordingly adjourned during pleasure and put into a Committee of the Whole on the bill, the Honourable Rhéal Bélisle in the Chair.

Pursuant to rule 18 of the rules of the Senate, the Honourable Pierre H. Cadieux, Minister of Labour, was escorted to a seat in the Senate chamber.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, we are now meeting in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-98. I think we should hear from the minister. Does the minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Chairman. The same comments I made on the other bill apply to this bill. The bill passed all stages in the House on Monday with the full support of the opposition parties. These amendments are brought forward with the full support of a tripartite consultation between the unions involved, the management involved, and the provinces involved, which are Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

● (1230)

These amendments are necessary. They have been a long time in the works. We now have agreement from all parties. I believe this is a great step forward in ensuring good health and safety regulations in the mines in Flin Flon, which obviously, as honourable senators are aware, are dangerous work places. I believe that this is a good piece of legislation.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cadieux. I now call upon Senator Molgat.

[Translation]

Senator Molgat: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Minister, we are delighted to have you here once again. As a matter of fact, you are one of our more regular distinguished visitors. You may be soon considered one of us. The

[Senator Bélisle.]

only problem is that you would have to ask the Province of Quebec to appoint you to the Senate.

Mr. Cadieux: If I may interrupt, Senator Molgat. I do not want to reveal any secret, but the last time I was here, Senator Frith volunteered to suggest my appointment.

Senator Molgat: Unfortunately, the Meech Lake Accord will eliminate that possibility.

But let us go back to the bill. First, I would like to congratulate you on introducing a bill which met with astounding unanimous approval.

How are things done right now? Who takes care of inspections in Flin Flon? Is it the federal government under the 1947 act or the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Cadieux: The Province of Manitoba, senator.

Senator Molgat: How come? In 1947, a bill was introduced and passed to make clear that the federal government would have jurisdiction.

Mr. Cadieux: As you know, the federal government had to get involved in 1947 because the mine was on both sides of the border. Strictly speaking, it was a federal jurisdiction.

Since then, there have been discussions, if I may use that word to describe what went on, among three governments, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the federal government as to who should do what specifically. This situation gave rise to difficult problems.

For that reason there have been, during the last few years, talks about ways to improve compliance with health and safety regulations.

I have been told that most of the work, at the present time, is being done on the Manitoba side, rather than the Saskatchewan side, even though there is still some activity on this side which might continue for another two years.

I believe this is the reason why the Province of Saskatchewan agreed specifically with the Province of Manitoba that health and safety regulations from that latter province should apply to the whole area.

The use of provincial legislation in areas of federal jurisdiction is not new. In effect, we find the same thing in uranium mines, where provincial regulations apply. We will have the same here where Manitoba regulations will be used.

Senator Molgat: Were inspectors ever sent by the federal government following passage of the act of 1947? Did we have federal inspections?

Mr. Cadieux: Since 1947, inspections have been performed by both the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Senator Molgat: Despite the federal legislation?

Mr. Cadieux: Despite the federal legislation, from what I have been told.

Senator Molgat: In other words, that legislation was never enforced?

Mr. Cadieux: The federal legislation says that federal jurisdiction comes from the fact that the two mines overlap.