

*Labour Conditions*

that of a family counsellor who after counselling a man and wife in a major dispute will never be their friend regardless of whether he has settled their difficulties. I therefore suggest that the minister should consider whether this agreement has in fact been accepted by both parties. If the government wishes to appoint someone to ascertain the role of automation in stevedoring and to do a time and motion study on the amount of productivity that can be achieved with the least number workers, they will have to obtain the co-operation of these people. I suggest their efforts will come to nothing if the union decides to sabotage this agreement without really objecting to this inquiry. The government will find that the job classification which will have to be undertaken will not be successful.

I believe there are many hon. members on the other side of the house who will be voting with the government because of their membership in the Liberal party and regardless of their duty to the people they represent. I know there are many members on that side of the house who have a labour background but when we hear a man as highly esteemed by the labour movement as the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration indicating to the house that he also has feet of clay and putting political support above his conscience, even though he said this afternoon that he is violently opposed to compulsory arbitration he will have to speak long and loud to justify the fine line he is drawing in this type of legislation.

There are many members who should take a look at what this legislation will mean in the future because if this bill is passed it will be easy to duplicate and the need for the Department of Labour will no longer exist because all the government will have to do is to legislate. All those who have been closely connected with labour will find that laws can be passed against labour but they will not be accepted.

Look at the laws against labour which have been passed in the province of Quebec and those which have been passed in the province of Ontario, particularly in the municipal field. They have not accomplished what they were supposed to achieve. If some hon. members doubt this, how do they explain that in spite of the existence of specific municipal legislation a police strike has taken place and there is a threatened strike of hospital workers even though they do not have the right to strike? Labour legislation can only be applied

if it is just and it is only in that case that it will be accepted. If those to whom it is applied do not feel it is just and warranted, then they will not operate under it. I am not suggesting they will break the law but I am sure they will look for many ways of circumventing its terms.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, why some cabinet minister did not propose legislation to the house when we appointed the commission on biculturalism and bilingualism which did not receive a great deal of attention from any hon. members until it had reached the stage of an obsession? I wonder why we did not pass a bill implementing the terms of the report of the commission on biculturalism and bilingualism and make that report part of our legislation? It seems to me just as silly to ask someone to investigate a situation the full implications of which are not understood either by labour or management.

I think that quite an extensive investigation regarding automation in this industry will have to be carried out before this legislation will receive the co-operation of those concerned. Yet we are now being asked, before even seeing the report of the commissioner, to legislate the terms of an agreement. I do not know what is the reason behind this thinking. I would have no objection if the minister would stand up in the house and ask us to look into the whole matter of automation, not only as it affects this industry but any other industry.

● (9:30 p.m.)

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we might some day decide that legislation could overcome some of the limiting factors to the freedom of the individual and the security he may have at present under contract. Companies may find some advantages in automation that may be modified by legislation. However, let us not do this to one, small segment of an industry by legislation before the facts are known.

I can recall a strike situation in which I went out to raise money for bail for people even though they had not yet committed offences. I did so because there had been a number of assault and battery charges laid and I had to raise bail for those people. When I came back to the office with a number of deeds I had pledged, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), who was our legal counsel, gave me quite a lecture. He told me I was not supposed to get bail pledged for offences that had not yet taken place. Well, we are doing the same thing in this instance. I did not see anything wrong with it. I did