

Labour Conditions

in any other corner, have put forward any solutions to this problem. I am sure that when the minister presents his complementary legislation it will consist of sensible reform measures, and will provide an answer to this great problem.

Mr. Speaker, I hope when the minister presents this complementary legislation he will tackle one other thing I believe should be included in any labour standards. As the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Gray) has said, there are many things to be done. I should like to see a solution found in respect of labour strikes. Surely it will be recognized that even after 100 years the procedure for bargaining, particularly in respect of strikes, has not changed, much to the detriment of the nation. Uncounted millions have been lost both in production and in wages as a result of labour strikes. Surely the time has arrived when we should adopt or recommend new procedures for bargaining and settling disputes that arise. If we hope to assist in solving the disputes of nations, surely we should be able to find some solution to labour disputes so as to avoid this tremendous loss in production and wages.

When the minister brings forward this complementary legislation I am sure he will show himself to be a young, vigorous reformer, and his party to be truly a party of reform. In the meantime this measure is welcomed by all, and particularly by the page boys for whom I speak.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I think it was Abraham Lincoln who said on one occasion, "God protect me from my friends because I can look after my enemies myself." That thought occurred to me as I listened to the remarks of the members of the Liberal party who extolled the virtues of this bill and of the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen).

The hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) suggested that this minister might have a solution to the problem created by automation. That problem has confounded the experts of the industrialized countries of the world. That hon. member suggests there is an answer or solution to the problems created by strikes. I suggest that if there is an answer which is acceptable to both labour and management in a democratic society, neither the minister nor any other person interested in this field has found it. The hon. member talks about losses as a result of strikes, but forgets to indicate that we are losing more man hours of production in one week, even today

during this period of relatively full employment, than we ever lost in the past several years as a result of all the strikes which have taken place in Canada. I do not think the contribution made by the hon. member for York East has really helped us in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised by the defensive attitude taken by the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Gray) and the hon. member for Hamilton East (Mr. Munro). One would think that in their view it would be better if Mackenzie King had never lived. One would think from their remarks that it was a terrible thing that Mackenzie King assumed the leadership of the Liberal party in 1919 and pledged that party to work toward a national labour code which would include a minimum wage, holidays with pay, statutory holidays and those other things dealt with in the bill now before us.

When hon. members in this part of the house refer to the history of 1919 and the Liberal party program of that day we are not being critical, but is regrettable that it has taken the Liberal party 45 years to fulfil the promise made by a Liberal convention at that time. I should like to point out to the hon. member for Essex West that the Liberal party was in power in this country during 34 of those 45 years, so that legislation of this kind could have been placed before the house during that period. Perhaps I should also remind the hon. member that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) has been a member of this house since 1935 and served under that former prime minister and leader of the Liberal party, Mr. Mackenzie King, and that the present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) was brought into public office by that same gentleman.

I do not think the hon. member should confuse this house and becloud the record by suggesting that the Minister of Labour is only responsible for the promises made by his party in 1962 and 1963. That hon. minister is a member of the Liberal party and entitled to accept all the credit for the things it has done, belated as they may be, but he must also accept the responsibility for this party's history of procrastination and delay over a period of 45 years.

We in this party greet the introduction of this legislation with enthusiasm and intend to support it, but it seems to us there are some very important and fundamental questions to be answered by the minister, in respect of legislation and administration, if this bill is to be effective. We must ask some