

the Industrial Relations Information Service, or IRIS—everything needs to have a name which can be shortened, I guess. IRIS will operate as a service of Labour Canada, providing convenient access to the wealth of public information concerning labour matters which is available from a variety of federal government sources. The primary clientele of IRIS will be active industrial relations practitioners, namely labour and management negotiators, their research support people and third parties, such as mediators and arbitrators. Special legislation is not required for this new service.

● (1420)

I think that that gives some of the background of the history of this bill and of the *Labour Gazette*, the interrupted efforts of two previous governments to put this rather slight piece of legislation through the House, and the fact that today we have finally reached third reading of it. Presumably, if this government survives a bit longer than the fate which befell the two previous bills, it will not confront the efforts which I think are generally supported in the House to remove this statutory requirement.

It is, of course, with some sense of history that we recognize that the *Labour Gazette*, founded by Mackenzie King, in effect, comes to an end after 81 years. However, as I have indicated, this is a consequence of new services, new ways of communicating information and of our changing times.

Finally, I would emphasize that the provision of a forum for independent labour-related opinion still has merit, provided it can be produced at a reasonable cost. It should be noted that the effect of this legislation, while it eliminates the requirement to publish the *Labour Gazette* and *La Gazette du Travail*, does not prevent introduction of periodicals under the same or similar title if circumstances justify such action. The bill then, confirms the decision to discontinue these publications.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the minister's remarks helped clarify, in part, what my concern was earlier on a point of order, namely, I was very curious about the way this bill was drafted. I am not a lawyer and I am not the official labour critic. What I am concerned about is that I see a bill in front of me which was originally passed by the Senate a year ago, on May 8. I can understand that with the elections and all the other problems which would occur, there could be a delay. It was the first occasion we had to get it through. Therefore, I have that history fairly straight. However, when I see certain words like "shall" in that paragraph which makes up this new amendment or new legislation repeated twice, my curiosity is aroused very swiftly. I know the difficulty which exists in getting the word "shall" into legislation. The lawyers of justice fight it like the devil is supposed to fight holy water. However, when I see it twice in one paragraph, my curiosity is aroused.

I gather from the minister's speech that he is saying that the *Labour Gazette* is being discontinued. The legislation which we have before us says:

Department of Labour Act

With a view to the dissemination of accurate statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labour, the Minister shall collect—

That means that the minister is ordered by Parliament. He has no choice but to put out these figures. That is straightforward enough. I will forget the other "shall" for a moment. However, what makes the matter very suspicious is the second term of his bill, which says:

This Act shall be deemed to have come into force on January 1, 1979.

I do not have to be a labour expert at all, probably I do not have to be above the level of a moron, to know that there is something very fishy going on here. What this means to me, although I have no proof, is that they have been collecting these statistics all this time, and this is put in to legitimize by Parliament and give statutory authority to that which has already been done in the last two and one half years. Therefore, these people who have been paid to do this work are now going to have it legitimized by Parliament two and one half years later. When the country is told that we are getting rid of the *Labour Gazette*, for whatever reason, and the government is now bringing in a bill providing that the department shall do the same thing, and then it is dated back two and one half years, as I said, then all the suspicions of even a moron are raised.

Therefore, my question to the minister, preliminary to my major remarks, is: Is there any correctness to this suspicion that I have that someone is covering up? I think the phrase is "CYA". Are they covering up for the fact that this work has actually been done for the last two and one half years and we must now pay these people legitimately? Is that the reason this bill was made effective two and one half years ago?

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) for his question. As one who served here as a young member with the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain some 18 years ago, and who followed his very distinguished career as a minister of agriculture prior to that, I have to say that I think this is probably one of the very few times in his career, which I have followed with some close interest, in which he has put an improper interpretation upon a situation.

Actually, the department has the full authority to go ahead, to collect, and to publish material, whether Section 4 of the Department of Labour Act exists or not. Indeed, since the former section is in effect until this bill is passed today, until it goes out, it would also provide authority to publish various types of statistics and documents. For many years, the department has carried on a number of different publications in addition to the *Labour Gazette*.

Section 2 of the bill provides the retroactivity to January 1, 1979, for a very different reason. It is not the reason of making legitimate the collection and publication of materials that I am now directed to do. Rather, it is because of the fact that the former Conservative and former Liberal governments had ceased the publication of the *Labour Gazette*, feeling that the passage of the bill was imminent. Therefore, this bill, as were former bills, is dated back to that date to legitimize the fact