

*Canada Labour (Standards) Code*

industry would know beforehand that this measure will be applicable to those two holidays.

I understood the minister to say that he hoped it would come into effect before the end of the year, and that the regulations would be prepared and promulgated by that time. This may not be the case, I do not know. It depends on the degree to which the minister is able to draft the regulations. I see that the minister is trying to rise, and perhaps I should give him the opportunity to answer.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, our objective is to get the legislation through today if possible, get royal assent as soon as possible in the hope that we can introduce the regulations on Thursday or later this week. I cannot give any definite assurance until we have completed our discussions. The department, however, is committed to having these regulations completed before Christmas, if possible. They will be completed long before that date I hope, if we get continued co-operation.

**Mr. Howard:** That co-operation was promised by everyone beforehand. The question is whether the minister can get the regulations before cabinet and get approval by the Governor General in time. He may have all the best intentions in the world, but I suggest that if such a provision were written into the bill there would be no opportunity for argument and there would be no delay.

A variety of things might occur and it might be New Year's day before these regulations go into effect. I think it would be regrettable if things were delayed.

**Mr. Nicholson:** If we were to attempt to write in that the effective date of the bill is to be December 15, this could be really effective only after the regulations are in existence. I am reasonably sure we will have the necessary regulations promulgated this week. If we were to put a date in here and it should later be held up by the regulations, I think that would be unwise.

**Mr. Howard:** It would be a guarantee.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Skeena has been talking about the question of statutory holidays. There is also the question of the calculation of annual vacation pay. As I understood the minister, it is considered likely that this will be done, as is the case in some instances under provincial jurisdiction in the construction field, as a percentage of earnings payable with each pay cheque.

It seems to me the point the hon. member for Skeena is making is that if we added a clause to the bill which said that this act shall be deemed to come into effect on the 15th, in view of what the minister has said about various discussions on the principle of the regulations, those responsible would be in a position to make provision for calculating annual vacations effective on that date.

● (4:30 p.m.)

There was some reference to royal assent. Perhaps the minister is in a position to give us some indication as to whether or not, if we deal with this bill today, we can expect royal assent today.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot bind His Excellency, since I am only one of perhaps 25 who advise him collectively. I can say that I believe the measure will become effective before December 15, if it is given third reading today. That is all I can say in this regard at this time.

**Mr. McCleave:** Mr. Chairman, I think the minister has made a legitimate point because it is not a question of royal assent but when the regulations are made under this measure. That is what will bring the results into fruition. I think the solution to the difficulty expressed by my friends to the left would result from an assurance on the part of the minister that the regulations will be made within a couple of days of the passage of this bill and will become effective some time near the middle of December so that employers and employees alike will know that Christmas and New Year's days are covered. If that assurance is given surely we do not have to add anything to this bill at this time.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Chairman, this matter was discussed this morning and I am very pleased to give that assurance on behalf of the government.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions I should like to ask concerning the proposed sections 34B and 34C. It is proposed in this bill to set out how annual vacations and general holidays will be defined. It is my understanding that the regulations adopted under this part will set out general holidays and the basis for annual vacations.

What I have not been able to follow is just how, under the new regulations, annual vacations and general holidays will be the same as those set out in other parts of the act, for instance, parts III and IV. Perhaps I do not