

*Industrial Relations Act*

memory. The second time that the hon. member for Ontario made the point to the Minister of Labour he said, and I recall his words very well, that he had agreed to refer the bill to follow this resolution to a committee before second reading. He said, as I recall his words: The minister has agreed to send the bill to follow this resolution to the committee before second reading. Twice the hon. member for Ontario used the phrase "before second reading". I raised the question twice and used the words, "before second reading".

● (5:40 p.m.)

Then there was an exchange involving the hon. member for York South who referred to all the friendly arm twisting that was going on involving the Minister of Labour and his colleague the house leader as well as the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. An attempt was made to change the meaning even though the Minister of Labour said that he had followed exactly this course on a previous occasion and he did not see why he could not do so now. It is a shame the blues are not distributed to every member in the house because the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra would have to eat his words. We were told one thing this afternoon, and now they turn around and deny what they told us.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Tomorrow we will all have an opportunity of reading *Hansard* and checking more carefully our recollections of what was stated. I have stated, as the Minister of Labour has done, the reason for not sending this bill to a committee before second reading. I base my conclusion upon two lines of action. The hon. member for Kamloops and the hon. member for Peace River have stated it is possible to move a motion that will allow this to happen, namely, that the bill may go to a committee before second reading without the bill losing its position on the order paper. This suggestion is worthy of consideration and will be considered. We cannot consider any of these devices until the order for second reading is called.

It has to be made quite clear, Mr. Chairman, that the government, as the minister stated, is ready to have this bill go before a standing committee after second reading. There is a debate on whether it should happen before or after second reading and there is a very important principle involved, as has been declared by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. As far as we are concerned we are prepared to have this bill go before a committee. If hon. members can

bring forward a method that will retain the position of the bill on the order paper, then we will consider even taking the other course.

However, we are not going to put ourselves in the position, through some procedural device, of carrying out the declared objective of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre which is to destroy this bill. He is entitled to do that and he has so declared. We are entitled also to protect an important piece of government legislation.

**Mr. Nicholson:** If my memory serves me right, on the earlier occasion that I referred to when certain other legislation came up I cannot say whether it was done by unanimous consent but the resolution did not lose its place on the order paper. I can assure you of that. What has disturbed me is the alarming declaration by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that he and his group are determined to destroy this bill. If that is his purpose, then that certainly was not in line with the pious hope I expressed earlier today.

**Mr. Stanfield:** One of the troubles with this government is that when anything happens to alarm them they change their minds and their positions.

**Mr. Knowles:** Like most members of the House of Commons—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** That is the way the old leader carried on.

**Mr. Ricard:** It was effective in 1958.

**Mr. Knowles:** There are mutterings coming from the Secretary of State for External Affairs which I cannot hear but I am sure they are interesting. As I was saying, like most members of the House of Commons I like to think I carry some weight around here. I did not know I carried so much that I could scare the government away from a position in half an hour.

**Mr. Churchill:** If you can scare them they are in bad shape.

**Mr. Knowles:** I hope the remark of my neighbour, the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, reached the record. He said that if I could scare the government they are in bad shape. Apparently I have, and they are. Let a couple of statements be clear. The Minister of National Health and Welfare tried to tell us two or three times what the Minister of Labour said. He even read from