

*Civil Service Act*

In any event, he is a friend of the Union Nationale. Perhaps he is complaining because he has not had his share of paint? We will try to see to it.

Let us disregard those rumours that are gone with the wind. I am now coming back to the matter before us, in order, if possible, to protect the employees of the civil service commission.

For several years a certain group of those employees has more particularly been complaining. I mean part time employees who do not seem to be protected by this bill.

If I understood the parliamentary secretary rightly—and I suppose that he will, later on, throw some light upon the subject—statutory leave at this time only applies to regular employees; under the present act, part time employees do not enjoy this privilege.

Not only do they not enjoy statutory leave, but they do not get annual leave such as is granted across the country, except by this government.

The government should set an example of fairness in its treatment of its employees, whether full-time or part-time.

If there are people who deserve the sympathy of the government, it is those who, being unable to find a full-time job, have to work part-time.

Such as it is, the act does not provide statutory leave for part-time employees.

If required to work on legal holidays, they get no extra pay for it. If they do not work on those days, they are simply not paid.

I come back to the question that two or three other members and myself have raised during this session as well as during previous sessions. We have asked the government whether it would not take the necessary steps to remedy the situation and put an end to this unfairness.

Recently, the hon. member for St. Henry (Mr. Lessard) asked a question on that point. I have asked one myself. The hon. member for Russell (Mr. Tardif) made a speech along those lines. He suggested that the part-time employees should at least receive a percentage of their salary to compensate for the loss of their holidays.

I know that in the province of Quebec, employers grant their part-time or regular employees 2 per cent of their salary to compensate for the loss of holidays.

Yesterday, several questions were asked to the Secretary of State. He first replied he was not the only one dealing with the matter, that it comes under various departments.

After being asked the same question repeatedly, he finally gave the following answer, which I quote from page 1 of the appendix to *Hansard* for July 11, 1961:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to supply some information in reply to the questions which were directed to me recently concerning the advisability of granting paid leave to part time employees. Generally speaking, the government—and this includes the civil service commission—has followed the policy of granting regular leave only to full-time civil servants. A thorough review of that policy is now being made. The new policy we are now considering would be aimed at granting leave to all employees on the basis of their period of employment. When the civil service commission has completed its study of the matter, the house will be informed of the way in which this principle would apply.

We are now considering a bill concerning the civil service. Why should we wait until we have passed upon that bill to look after such an important group of citizens as part time civil servants?

After four years, it is high time that the government stop carrying out studies and endlessly reconsidering the matter.

It is high time, Mr. Chairman, that the government stop considering only matters pertaining to the department. It should put a stop to this endless reconsideration of questions.

In my opinion, since we are now considering a bill concerning the civil service of Canada, the Secretary of State, who is not here today, should not have said yesterday, when he was asked questions concerning leave with pay for part time employees, "that the matter will be taken into consideration".

Why has he not considered that matter in the past two or three years or even since his party came to power, that is four years ago?

The Conservatives promised to correct all past wrongs, even those which existed under Mr. Bennett.

I will say that what was not done during 22 years, was not accomplished either by Sir John A. Macdonald.

If the government starts justifying its bad administration by accusing previous governments, we will be going back to Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel.

There has been some talk about a general election. The sooner, the better for the Canadian taxpayer.

Instead of blaming previous administrations for their shortcomings, I hope the present government will have the courage to say what it did during four years.