

*Private Members' Business*

be used more by larger companies, as is suggested by this information.

In a comparison of the two periods, we might have expected as one of the favourable aspects of the legislation, an actual reduction in the number of person days of work time lost. In fact, there was a slight increase in the number of person days lost during work stoppages. The number increased from 9.1 million person days to 9.8 million person days of work lost during work stoppages. For work stoppages involving the use of replacement workers, there was very little change. The average number of person days lost in work stoppages involving the use of replacement workers was 1.1 million person days in both periods.

On each of these points and on each of these measures of work stoppages, including the numbers of workers involved in work stoppages where replacement workers are used, on the average numbers of workers involved, and in the person days not worked due to work stoppages, the statistics point to a worsened situation in the period after the introduction of anti-scab legislation.

While the hon. member has cited a reduction in the average of duration of work stoppages, as evidence of the effectiveness of the legislation in the province of Quebec, it should be pointed out that the study he has made reference to also indicates a reduction in the average duration of all strikes in the period, not just those involving the use of replacement workers.

There is one final observation from the study by *Le Centre de recherches et de statistiques sur le marché du travail*. I earlier described the trend in some of the work stoppage statistics for all of Canada. I noted that there is a declining trend in the number of strikes and lockouts. There is a declining trend in the number of workers involved in strikes, as well as in the absolute decline in the number of working time lost and as a percentage of total working time.

There are any number of factors that might be considered in trying to determine an explanation of trends in work stoppage statistics. The state of the economy, for example, is one important factor. The high and rising rate of inflation in the 1970s is referred to by students of industrial relations as one factor in particular that caused a difficult period of adjustment for labour and management. Relative wages, industrial structure and job securi-

ty are several other factors that have a bearing on trends and developments in work stoppages.

What I find difficult to come to grips with is how a single piece of legislation such as the legislation on anti-scab practices in the province of Quebec can be singled out as a source of improvement in the incidence of work stoppages when the evidence that I have just cited from the same study by *Le Centre de recherches et de statistiques sur le marché du travail* makes such a claim questionable.

Finally, there is one further observation that I would like to make regarding the average duration of work stoppages since this is the indicator used by the hon. member for Richelieu as evidence of the effectiveness of anti-scab legislation.

• (1905)

From 1972, the first year of the study by *Le Centre de recherche*, to 1977, the year of the introduction of the anti-scab legislation in Quebec, the average duration of strikes and lockouts in the province of Quebec was higher than in all of Canada. In the years since the introduction of the legislation, there has been no change in this relationship and work stoppages in the province of Quebec continue to be longer than those in all of Canada.

I hope these few remarks have been helpful in providing the House with a perspective on the information in the study cited by the hon. member for Richelieu. I believe the evidence on the effectiveness of anti-scab legislation, such as is proposed in Bill C-201, is less than satisfactory and I frankly doubt the soundness of the measures proposed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia—Matane):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words about the bill before the House concerning the maintenance of essential services in Crown corporations and the prohibition respecting the hiring of workers to replace their own employees in the event of a strike or lock-out. Let us examine the main elements of this bill.

First, after the filing of a negotiation notice Crown corporations would not be allowed to hire new employees to perform the work done by those who have gone on strike or who are locked out.