

*Financial Assistance to Newfoundland***FAIR WAGES AND HOURS OF
LABOUR ACT****AMENDMENTS RESPECTING HOURS OF WORK,
RATES OF PAY, ETC.**

The house resumed from Wednesday, April 6, consideration of the motion of Mr. Nicholson for the second reading of Bill No. C-2, to amend the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, when I moved second reading of this bill approximately a month ago I made a very brief statement as to the purposes of the bill. I am afraid that I was a little too brief in omitting to say that the amendments are being proposed in order to carry out a promise made by my predecessor, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen). This promise was made in the name of the government and related to bringing the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act into line with the labour standards code.

Since those opening remarks, representations have been made to a number of hon. members in this house, including myself, which would indicate that there has been some misunderstanding or lack of understanding. At the suggestion of members from all sides of the house, I have agreed that in the interests of making sure that everybody does understand the purpose of this bill, following second reading, if it is given tonight, I will immediately ask that it be referred to the Committee on Labour and Employment for clause by clause study.

Mr. Starr: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Employment.

NEWFOUNDLAND**PROVISION FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE UNDER TERM 29**

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (for the Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to give effect to term 29 of the Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada and to pay to the province out of the consolidated revenue fund, in the fiscal year commencing on the first day of April, 1967 and in each and every fiscal year thereafter, an annual amount, by way of additional financial assistance as contemplated by term 29, of \$8 million.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this resolution is to obtain the approval of the house for the introduction of a bill which would have the effect of making the award of the royal commission established under term 29 of the Terms of Union with Newfoundland a separate statute, which would continue indefinitely unless the governments of Newfoundland and Canada mutually agree that there should be a change.

• (9:20 p.m.)

It will be recalled that after the royal commission made its original report, the previous government asked parliament, and parliament agreed, to make provision for the payment of this award first for the period ending March 31, 1962, and subsequently as a part of the legislation respecting tax sharing and other fiscal arrangements with the provinces for the period which will end on March 31, 1967. The position which was taken by those of us who were in opposition at that time was that this was the completion of the Terms of Union bringing about confederation; that it should not be in the same statute as the tax sharing arrangements, which were subject to change from time to time after discussion with the provincial governments, but that it should stand on its own feet as a part of the Terms of Union, and the award of the royal commission should be paid annually until such time as both governments felt that it was no longer required for the purpose set out in term 29 of the Terms of Union.

I could, of course, go into a great deal of detail about this matter if any hon. member wished me to do so; but I have no desire to stir up the controversies of other days. The policy which we are now seeking to translate into legislation was set out by the leader of this party in 1962, 1963 and again in 1965 as one of those things which a Liberal government would propose to parliament and ask parliament to approve. We feel that, in Newfoundland and in the rest of Canada, we have a mandate to do this, and we are seeking at this stage to carry out that mandate and complete the terms of this union with Newfoundland, which I think all hon. members, however much we may differ on other things, would agree has been a harmonious union, beneficial to all Canadians and to Canada itself.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Chairman, while I might agree entirely with the Minister of Transport, who is a member from Newfoundland, as to