

Mr. FLEMING: With respect to No. 32 on page 14, I challenge the consideration of it, clause by clause, or article by article. I wonder how many of us are competent to deal with the matters of detail which are given here, such as the dimensions of fencing, and the dimensions of ladders, and so on. That, surely, is beyond us. Have we had any recommendations from the officials of the Labour Department with regard to this, and have there been any representations from representatives of organized labour bodies of the country? If we have their views, I think we might very well be guided by them. This is a convention which has been awaiting ratification since 1932, and it must have been reviewed by these other bodies. So I cannot see the point in going into the details clause by clause.

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that point. We are entering into this discussion, so to speak, within the order of the reference of the House of Commons. In addition, I expect that Mr. Wrong will be here this morning. He was called along with the Hon. Mr. St. Laurent to speak before the External Affairs committee of the Senate, but I expect that he will be here soon. In the meantime, we might approach the discussion of these two resolutions.

Mr. BOUCHER: I take it that Mr. Wrong is not going to take up this one specifically?

The CHAIRMAN: No. If I had thought that Mr. Wrong could not be here to-day, I would have had an expert from the Department of Labour.

Mr. FLEMING: I would not want any comment to be taken as being critical.

Mr. BOUCHER: Could we not use our time in exploring the possibilities of getting somebody to appear before our committee who is vitally interested in, and well acquainted with, the terms of this convention, so that we could hear his viewpoint on it. I think we might well spend some time in deciding whom we could get before the committee.

Mr. TREMBLAY: I think that would be a very good start indeed.

Mr. KNOWLES: Is there any correspondence on file indicating how or why this proposal was made at this time? Has it been asked for by labour or by other countries?

The CHAIRMAN: No. That would be the Department of Labour, and it concerns their department. We would like to have a witness from the International Labour Bureau at Montreal as well.

Mr. MUTCH: Would not we be better advised to adopt the usual committee procedure rather than by beginning consideration of a specific item like this? We know this is something which was asked for about ten or twelve years ago and which has been ratified by various other countries and is in effect at the present moment. What we are faced with is the formal application of an established condition. If we are going to hear representations, such representations will either approve or they will raise certain objections. We would then be in a position to decide on the basis of these representations. But for us to sit down and just review this thing, clause by clause, would be a sheer waste of time, because most of us, I think, have no personal knowledge of any of these problems. We should first see if our own Department of Labour is satisfied with the terms as set forth.

Mr. BOUCHER: May we have a list of the names of those people who were at the Geneva Convention, where this matter was discussed? We might have some of them come before us. We have in Ottawa Mr. Mosher, who I think was very interested in it, and we have as well, the secretary of the Federation of Labour, Mr. Dowd. And if I am not mistaken, we also have Mr. Martin, now Secretary of State, who could give us some information on it. I do not know whether he can speak to this particular convention, but he might at least give us some guidance as to who could present the problem to us.