

training and learning and experience that they could take on almost any task one could imagine that a government, federal or provincial, could conceive it wanted to look into.

Since about the middle seventies, this growth industry has been really operating. If you were a middle or senior level civil servant or a senior official in a Crown corporation, you put in a minimum number of years to get your pension or get a nice fat buy-out on your contract. Then you started a consulting firm and you bid on all kinds of contracting out contracts. With the kind of contacts you have built up in the Public Service, in the government, former, present and future hopeful cabinet ministers and so forth, you are in there like a burglar. Contracting out is hitting \$5 billion a year. The government will not give us any details. It will not even give details to the Auditor General.

There are some instances when you have to contract out, or you should. If, on the rare occasion there is no expertise or facility anywhere in the federal government service to look into a certain matter in which the government is contemplating legislation, one would have no choice but to contract out.

If your public servants, with their best expertise, come up with a report that you have some doubts about or you would like to have double-checked, you might put out a contract either to verify or dispel what your public servants came up with. That is another instance where it would make some sense to contract out.

The overwhelming majority of contracting out cases that have gone on could have been done just as well, I suspect, for less money; certainly not any more money than was being spent.

On the whole matter of getting the best behaviour out of people, you have to give them a chance to behave. When the government brings in legislation that flies in the face of other labour legislation, you are denying that principle about giving them a chance to behave. There is another world famous, internationally recognized, historical figure who made a statement well over a hundred years ago. He was questioned about activities of certain labour unions, and he was requested to take part in that dispute on the side of the employers. He refused on the

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following grounds: "You have to remember labour is prior and superior to capital and without labour capital cannot function". Stupid employers and stupid governments do not learn that at their peril, if they have not learned it.

Regarding arbitrarily defining job classifications, there is a mechanism in place already to do it with representation from government and employees' representations under the Canada Labour Code or before the Public Service Staff Relations Board. The mechanism is already there. If agreement cannot be reached between the government and the employees, the mechanism is in place.

We should not arbitrarily remove the ability of representatives of the employees to have a say, to negotiate job classifications and to define them. They should have a say in what the appropriate units would be for collective bargaining. If anyone knows quite a bit about an appropriate union for collective bargaining, it is a labour unionist. He would know just as much or more about it than the employer would.

On the whole matter of eliminating jobs in the public sector, some of that has gone on through contracting out. The government is not giving us all the facts, figures and details on the \$5 billion it spent. It will not even give them to the Auditor General. One must be pardoned for being a little suspicious. The government can claim that it has frozen the Public Service, that there is a net reduction, or that the Public Service is no larger than it was a certain number of years ago. It has not told us how many people were involved in the contracting out, and who got paid fat fees. That is why it is such a nice growth industry in the Ottawa Valley.

• (1630)

This is part of collective bargaining. It is part of the kinds of rights that working people have earned. The bill is improper and inappropriate. I hope the government members will have some second thoughts about it, the three who are here, and withdraw the damned thing.

Let us not even bother having a vote on a six-month hoist. Just pull it off the table, send it over to a committee, ask it to look at it and report back.