

Constitution. I think I should point out also that since the Yukon and Northwest Territories Act assigns authority normally regarded as being equivalent to provincial powers to the governing council of the territories, they are also excluded from the operation of the bill, as are all the other provinces. Similar exceptions have been made in some recent acts, one of these being the Annual Vacations Act of 1958. I am informed that the council of the territories is giving consideration to the enactment of ordinances which will deal with appropriate labour standards coming under the jurisdiction of that council.

I think it would be helpful if I put on the record at this time the federal undertakings referred to in the title of the bill. They include: navigation and shipping; railways, canals and telegraphs; interprovincial road transport and pipe lines; air transportation and facilities; radio and television broadcasting; banks; and those industries which have been declared by Parliament to be for the general advantage of Canada or of two or more of the provinces.

Other industries which have been declared as such are grain elevators and flour and feed mills; uranium, mining and refining of that ore; and any undertaking which is outside the exclusive legislative authority of the provinces. In addition, there is included all government corporations which are listed in Schedule B to the Financial Administration Act and regarded as federal undertakings.

It might be useful if, instead of reading this list comprising 10 such government corporations, I could have permission to put them on the record. They are important in themselves, but they are not of very great magnitude in regard to the effect this bill will have on them. With your permission, I will have this put on the record at this point.

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Schedule B to the Financial Administration Act (1952, chap. 116)

Schedule B

Agricultural Prices Support Board  
Atomic Energy Control Board  
Canadian Maritime Commission  
Director of Soldier Settlement  
The Director, The Veterans' Land Act  
Dominion Coal Board  
Fisheries Prices Support Board  
National Gallery of Canada  
National Research Council  
Unemployment Insurance Commission

1951 (2nd Sess.), c.12, Sch. B.

**Hon. Mr. Smith (Queens-Shelburne):** I also want to point out that other employees

in the public service of Canada are not specifically covered in this bill but the national labour standards will be or already have been adopted by government departments and crown corporations.

It is obvious, honourable senators, that most of the workers—and their number has been estimated to be in the order of 550,000—in federal industries have already reached labour standards equal to or higher than those provided under this bill, because of agreements made following collective bargaining procedures. The proposed legislation will, however, ensure for unorganized employees and small groups who are privately employed the benefits of the progress already enjoyed by others as a result of collective bargaining.

It is also important to note that an undertaking has been given by the Minister of Labour to bring forward amendments to the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act by means of which the minimum labour standards provided in this bill will be applicable to certain categories of federal workers. Those of us who have any knowledge of how the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act now applies will know that these standards are presently related to existing local circumstances.

Establishing minimum labour standards in federal industries will perhaps have the greatest immediate impact on the wages and working conditions of those people in non-urban or rural areas of Canada where labour standards are usually lower. Many such areas exist, for example, in the Atlantic provinces, and of course in the rural areas of almost all provinces of Canada. For the first time the working conditions in these areas will be raised up to a national standard, depending only on whether the workers are employed in an industry or on a contract under federal jurisdiction. In other words, the effect of this bill will be to establish the same minimum labour standards for federal employees whether they are in a high wage region such as Ontario and British Columbia, or in the Atlantic provinces.

The standards in the Canada Labour Code have been set after full consultation and discussion at a federal-provincial labour conference which was held last spring in Ottawa. At the conclusion of that conference the provincial ministers—and I read a summary of the conference proceedings in order to determine just what had transpired—expressed general agreement on the need for progressive labour standards, and acknowledged the existence of the gap in the federal field.