

Mr. GILLIS: That is according to the newspapers.

Mr. MITCHELL: Another matter which I think should be cleared up is the statement that the application of the wage control policy has put a damper on organized labour. Both my hon. friends know as well as I do that in some respects wages are the least important feature of an agreement, once you get those wages stabilized. I am sure the hon. member for Vancouver East will agree that seniority is far more important even than wages in the minds of many trade unionists, because it is a measure of job security. In that regard some of these agreements have dozens of clauses written into them. This policy is administered jointly by the dominant labour organizations and the dominant manufacturers' organizations, through the national and regional war labour boards, and there has been a great impetus to the growth of the trade union movement in this country. That is clearly indicated in the applications for boards of conciliation. I think that is so for the reason that now there is a central authority to which application may be made to adjust wages in conformity with government policy. That is all I intend to say on this point.

I hope I have answered the principal questions asked by my hon. friends. I should like to point out also that the government is increasingly relying upon the advice of labour and industry in the administration of the war policy, through the consultative committee which I recently set up along the lines of the consultative committee set up by Mr. Bevin in England, in the administration of the national and regional war labour boards, in the courts of referees dealing with unemployment insurance and also the advisory committees which will play an important part in the application of national selective service when that is launched. Therefore I can say that I look forward to an increase in the tempo of the cooperation between the government, the employers and the employees in those policies which, from my point of view at least, most directly affect them in the conduct of the war. I think that is about all I have to say, and I hope I have touched upon most of the points raised.

Mr. GRAYDON: I am prompted to say a word in connection with the matter of labour, because it is a subject in which I have had a very keen interest for a good many years. I should like especially to suggest to the minister that if labour is to have its proper place in the great national partnership which will bring us to a victorious conclusion of this war and usher us into a worth-while

peace, we must infuse into the government the principles of the labour movement as a whole. It seems to me we are not doing much in parliament, nor is the government doing much, to bring into government boards the two great classes in the community. I make no apology for calling agriculture and labour the two great classes. I believe I represent about an equal number of both, and I am convinced that we must bring them to a greater extent into the actual government of our land. We have witnessed the setting up by the government of board after board, and for some reason it has become almost a religion with certain people that on those boards we must have only men high up in business circles. We must get over that kind of thing, and bring into our government boards representatives from the classes I have mentioned. These boards are discharging functions in many instances equal to those discharged by the government itself. The House of Commons has to a certain degree abdicated its functions of legislation in favour of many boards which are given legislative powers. Those powers of course are subject to revision and confirmation by the House of Commons. Because of this change, this metamorphosis in our legislative system, we should have greater representation of labour on the boards being set up in Canada. If I recall aright the Minister of Labour stated, when introducing the bill to provide unemployment insurance, that some four million people would be affected by that bill. I realize of course that he did not mean that those four million would all draw unemployment insurance. That is a tremendous section of our population, and because the number is so great those people must hold a very important position in our whole national structure. Those of us who through the years have lived close to the working man know something about his loyalty to his country, his associates, and his friends. In times like these we feel impelled to add our voices in his behalf.

I was glad to note the position taken by hon. members who took part in the discussion this afternoon and this evening, and to hear them put forward what they felt was the best foot of labour. As a nation we cannot expect to have real prosperity, nor can we expect to merit a complete victory in the war and in the peace, unless we are prepared to give a reasonable position and make a proper place for those two great sections of our population which work so hard, day in and day out, toiling for the national welfare.