

Air Traffic Controllers

● (2320)

It indicates to me that if you are an A11, you have seven categories of wages. If you go to A12, it is very odd. They are not a continuation, so you cannot say they are continuing. The highest you can rise to in class A11 is \$15,785, and you start in A12 considerably below that because you start at \$13,551. That seems to me to be a classification. We are negotiating now the classification program which the minister says is illegal to put before a conciliation board in normal negotiations. In A13 there are 14 classifications, the highs and lows in seven categories.

An hon. Member: What about A3?

Mr. Peters: The hon. member has not looked at the bill. There is not any A3. The next one, A13, goes up, not down. These sections in the schedule would not offend you even if you took your shoes off. They would fit in very well. We are discussing a classification.

An hon. Member: No, we are not.

Mr. Peters: Well, I would like to know what these figures are. They certainly are classifications in terms of the office staff in any other category. It may not be what we are talking about.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, if I may just answer the hon. member, the rates he sees there and from which he is quoting are the classifications and rates which have already been agreed to and are operative now. They are old classifications.

Mr. Peters: Of course, that is true. They are already agreed to. In other words, we have a classification program. We have this classification in the rate structure of all the public service I know of, and it is almost identical to this. If one knew what the A stood for, one would probably be able to say what category it is equal to in the Department of Transport or in the Department of Labour. The minister probably has civil servants in all these categories. They are classifications. A person can move within one classification to a higher rate; then he can go to another classification. I presume that A11, A12 and A13 are different types of jobs. One may be a controller on VFR. One may be a unit chief or supervisor. One may be a ground control officer or a visual controller at a very small airport operated by the Department of Transport.

I presume that every one of these is a classification, and I would like to know what the minister means when he says that classifications are beyond public service legislation. This was not even referred to a conciliation board.

The minister knows as well as I do that members of parliament do not have classifications. Office staffs may have, but members of parliament do not. They have a set salary, and it is equal for everyone. Additional amounts are added when a member becomes a minister, a parliamentary secretary, or a chairman of a committee, but there are still no classifications in these categories. There is not just one category of controller.

[Mr. Peters.]

Different VFR controllers get different wages. There are a number of categories. In fact there are seven categories, and there are levels in each of those seven categories. It seems to me that we are not being very honest about what a classification is. I am sure that classifications were put before the conciliation board, and I am sure that increments were considered in those classifications. I presume that the minister has been talking about reclassification in which, for some reason or another, a change is made in certain categories which has to do with changing conditions for people in these categories.

An hon. Member: It's all right, Arnold.

Mr. Peters: It might be all right for some of my colleagues, but I do not understand what the minister is talking about. I see the classifications here, but I do not see that they are prohibited by public service legislation. If changes are made I am curious to know why those changes cannot be referred to a conciliation board just as the classifications we have now. I do not know why the changes could not be referred if the categories could be referred.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister one question. Here we are writing the collective bargaining agreement, and reference is made in two clauses to an agreement. Does the minister not think that if a bill like this comes before parliament all members of parliament should be privy and have a copy of the collective agreement itself? What the minister has provided here are amendments to an agreement which should have been tabled at the very beginning, at the time of the introduction of this bill.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Chairman, I can answer the hon. member by indicating that Schedule II contains all the items to which the parties have agreed. In a sense we have been able to resolve the wage issue. This would have been a very significant part of the collective agreement.

Mr. Jones: The point I am trying to make is that this whole thing is a jigsaw puzzle, and we have just some of the pieces. If we had been given the whole agreement, we could have put this jigsaw puzzle together very easily today.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Is the committee ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The question is on the amendment of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

(And the result of the vote having been announced:)

● (2330)

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The seating plan in my desk is somewhat out of date. The hon. member who is sitting in the seat which is in the fourth row, second from the end, entered the House and took his place after members on my side of the House had risen for the vote.