

Unemployment Insurance Act

ILO to other countries to send representatives has been accepted by the Soviet union and associated nations. Consequently the sessions of ILO are perhaps more vigorous, and more controversial items are brought forward, than in any other organization. I appreciate the expressions of good will for the trip, and particularly I appreciate the excellent fashion in which this bill has been received in committee of the whole this afternoon.

Mr. Martin: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the Minister of Labour is going to be leaving us shortly to attend the international labour conference, I feel I might address myself to the acting leader of the C.C.F. party and to others, as to whether they might not agree to my colleague's suggestion to give third reading to this measure now. It has had full consideration in committee, and I am sure the Minister of Labour would be happy to leave with the measure having received third reading. I would strongly urge this, and I think it is in the temper of the house to do so.

Mr. Gillis: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister of National Health and Welfare has put me on the spot, I would say that, as far as I am concerned personally, we have not discussed this matter. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre apparently wants it held over, but if the Minister of Labour as a special favour to himself would like to finalize this bill this afternoon, I have no objection.

At the same time I would point out that this act, with the exception of section 3, does not become operative until October of this year, and I do not know what benefit there is in passing it now if it is not going to go into operation, with the exception of section 3, until that time. But I am quite willing, if the Minister of Labour asks it of members of this house as a favour to him, in view of the fact that he is going to Geneva, that we give it third reading this afternoon. As far as I personally am concerned I am quite prepared to do that.

Mr. Gregg: My hon. friend, as ever, is very generous. Of course there is no great rush with regard to time. However, if the members of the opposition parties would be willing to approach the matter in the same spirit as my hon. friend from Cape Breton South, I would be very grateful indeed. I would feel it would be a much tidier job, and then there would only remain the estimates for my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare between now and the end of the session. If the house would accord me that favour I would appreciate it very much.

[Mr. Gregg.]

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry to disappoint the minister. After all, we did work long hours and we sat in special sessions every night in order to prepare the report and have it ready so we could consider this bill yesterday. Had that happened we could have had third reading today. I feel it is through no fault of any of the members of this committee that it has been delayed. I feel it is too important a measure to push through, even as a special favour to the minister.

I am sure the minister will recognize that in refusing this request there is no reflection on him or on the conduct of the debate with regard to this bill. I think we have put it through very expeditiously, as a matter of fact, and there are a great many points on which we could have elaborated at length. There are a great many clauses we have allowed to go through without making the obvious comments we would have made had we not known there was some necessity to rush it. Therefore I feel it is within the competence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to handle the third reading of the bill.

Mr. Gregg: I shall therefore withdraw my request, Mr. Chairman.

Bill reported.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Applewhaite in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration service—

1. Departmental administration (including advisory committee on agricultural services), \$496,998.

The Deputy Chairman: I would remind the committee again that the resolution is to be found on page 4 of the book of main estimates, and the details on page 83.

Mr. McLeod: Mr. Chairman, in rising to speak generally on questions relating to agriculture, I am prompted to do so largely by a remark that was interjected the other night by the hon. member for Moose Mountain when the hon. member for Brant-Haldimand was speaking. While the hon. member for Brant-Haldimand was referring to certain wheat questions, the hon. member for Moose Mountain advised representatives of other classes of agriculture to speak for themselves.

As it happens, I represent a riding that is largely agricultural. I therefore felt that I should take up this challenge. I thought the speakers from the group to my right were