

*Labour Conditions***LABOUR CONDITIONS****PROVISION FOR ORGANIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MANPOWER CONSULTATION SERVICE, ETC.**

**Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting industrial change and manpower adjustment; to provide for the organization and maintenance of a manpower consultation service; to provide also for the payment of assessment incentives for carrying out manpower adjustment programs; to provide further for the entering into agreements providing for the payment by Canada respecting a labour mobility incentive; and to establish a council called the "advisory council on industrial change and manpower adjustment" and to provide for the chairman's remuneration and for certain expenses of the members of the council.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Chown in the chair.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister recently said "Automation poses the supreme challenge to our industrial and social development. It is a challenge which must be met on the social and economic fronts by co-operation between government, labour and management." The legislation referred to in the resolution before the committee is an initial but far reaching step designed to meet this challenge of automation and to deal with it in a co-operative way by government, labour and management.

Technological change or automation, as it is now called, affects almost every aspect of the working life of Canada today. We have made more technological progress in the twentieth century than in all the previous history of the world. The pace of this technical progress is an ever quickening one. Automation presents us with an opportunity and a challenge. The challenge is to ensure that its human consequences do not work unnecessary hardships on those who must adapt their working lives to it. The opportunity is that it opens up a vast perspective for increasing human welfare in both an economic and social sense.

There has been much discussion in this house, in the press, and by labour and management groups of automation and the consequences for workers and for industry generally. This discussion has frequently been based on limited knowledge. It has also arisen in some cases from an understandable fear of the immediate consequences for workers and their families directly affected. This legislation is designed to deal in a positive way with some of the human problems caused by automation. These problems will grow ever more serious in the future if the measures proposed in this legislation are not taken soon.

In November of 1957 the government set up an advisory committee on technological

positions, because after all this matter of social welfare is far too important to be left open to possible misdirection.

**Mr. John B. Stewart (Antigonish-Guysborough):** Mr. Speaker, any measure that promises, as does Bill No. C-4 now before the house for third reading, to promote simplicity and efficiency in the field of welfare services certainly commends itself to hon. members on this side of the chamber. The men and women who chiefly benefit by welfare legislation are those most baffled and discouraged by inadequate administrative procedures. Moreover, many of these welfare programs require the co-operation of medical doctors who often, even generally, are extremely busy.

Undoubtedly these considerations were important in prompting the Canadian national welfare council to recommend in 1958 the establishment of a broadly representative body of common persons to survey constantly all aspects and developments in the field of social welfare. Undoubtedly another consideration that prompted the council to make this recommendation was the realization that there were required in this country new adventures in the field of social welfare. We are therefore happy that the government has, after a considerable delay, decided to accede in the recommendation of the council.

At the same time the passage of this bill must not conceal—and I think we can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we will not allow it to conceal—the urgent need for this government to formulate and introduce into this house legislation dealing with contributory pensions, medical care insurance and other required welfare programs.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

**FARM CREDIT ACT****PROVISION FOR INCREASE IN LENDING CAPACITY**

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture)** moved the third reading of Bill No. C-71, to amend the Farm Credit Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT AND CRIMINAL CODE****EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM RESPECTING B.C. FISHING INDUSTRY**

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (for the Minister of Justice)** moved the third reading of Bill No. C-49, to amend an act to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Criminal Code.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.