

*Private Members' Business*

## PAIRED MEMBERS

Anawak	Asselin
Bachand	Bakopanos
Barnes	Bélisle
Bergeron	Bernier (Gaspé)
Bernier (Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead)	Bertrand
Bouchard	Brien
Brown (Oakville—Milton)	Canuel
Cauchon	Chamberlain
Chan	Chrétien (Frontenac)
Crête	Dalphond—Guiral
Daviault	Debien
Dingwall	Discepola
Duceppe	Finestone
Gagnon (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Godfrey
Godin	Graham
Guay	Guimond
Jacob	Keyes
Lalonde	Langlois
Lavigne (Verdun—Saint-Paul)	Lebel
Leblanc (Longueuil)	Lefebvre
Lincoln	Loubier
MacAulay	Maclaren
Maheu	Marchand
Martin (Lasalle—Émard)	Ménard
Mercier	Ouellet
Pagtakhan	Paradis
Paré	Patry
Payne	Robillard
Scott (Fredericton—York—Sunbury)	St. Denis

• (1805)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** I declare the motion carried.

(Bill read the third time and passed.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger):** This concludes the votes for this evening.

It being 6.10 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[Translation]

### CANADA LABOUR CODE

The House resumed from June 15, 1995, consideration of the motion that Bill C-317, an act to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Staff Relations Act (scabs and essential services), be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development.

**Mr. André Caron (Jonquière, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak to Bill C-317 standing in the name of my colleague and friend from Manicouagan. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Canada Labour Code and the Public Service Staff Relations Act so as to deal with the issue of scabs and essential services in the case of labour disputes.

I am somewhat surprised to be in this position in 1995, because it seems to me this kind of legislation should have been passed long ago at the federal level.

The history of labour relations has more often than not been one of struggle and sometimes, unfortunately, one of violence.

When we study the history of the labour movement, we realize that when violence occurred, either on picket lines or as a result of a strike, it was in situations where the employer had hired strike breakers. In other words, he had replaced his employees who were legally on strike with people who were supposed to do the same work.

**An hon. member: Scabs.**

**Mr. Caron:** As my colleague says, scabs, to use a colloquialism.

I think it only makes sense that in 1995, the Canada Labour Code should contain a provision of this kind that would harmonize labour relations in situations where a strike may turn violent and ensure that employees who have temporarily lost their jobs are not replaced, since otherwise violence tends to develop on the picket lines and we get situations that are truly appalling.

I actually thought the Canada Labour Code contained a provision to that effect, because the Government of Quebec passed similar legislation in 1978, if I am not mistaken. At the time, representatives for the employers protested that it was not appropriate for the government to get involved in labour relations in a conflict situation of this kind, the excuse being that employers should be free to take any action necessary to continue their operations.

I think that at the time Quebec society made a wise decision when it told employers: Gentlemen, in our society, the government has a responsibility to provide leadership, to identify potentially violent situations and remove the cause of violence on the picket lines. In Quebec, if I remember correctly, we had two major disputes in which strike breakers were hired by companies and there was violence on the picket lines.

I remember the infamous strike in the sixties at United Aircraft in Longueuil and seeing on the news that armoured buses were bringing in people who were supposed to replace the workers who were legally walking the picket lines. This was a violent situation, and I think it is not in the interest of society to allow such situations to continue.

There was another case referred to at the time as the strike at Lapalme. This was a company connected with the Post Office Department. Its employees were on strike and, again, had been replaced with strike breakers or scabs. This dispute poisoned labour relations in Quebec for months and months. There were demonstrations supporting the workers, and petitions were signed. When the PQ government came to power in 1976, there had been considerable debate on the issue, so that legislation was adopted to regulate the whole issue of hiring strike breakers.

In fact, since that time, Quebec has had no violent conflicts comparable to those we saw in the sixties and seventies. Employers finally understood, although for a long time they were against this legislation. They were supposed to go to the Supreme Court but, if I remember correctly, the case was withdrawn in the eighties when the employers realized that the situation had improved since the passage of this bill.