

Mr. Mitchell: Yes, uranium and also interprovincial shipping and air lines. Those are the main ones.

Mr. Armstrong: Senator Goldenberg prefaced his remarks last night with a long list.

The Chairman: Senator Goldenberg, what was it you said about government employees?

Senator Goldenberg: I said the Canada Labour Code does not apply to employees of government departments, boards or commissions because they are subject to the Public Service Staff Relations Act, which is an entirely different act, with a different board and different provisions.

The Chairman: Is there any provision there for technological change?

Senator Goldenberg: No, not as far as I know.

The Chairman: So the government sees to it that its own employees are not covered by this bill.

Mr. Kelly: I understand the legislation is under review.

Senator Smith: I never understood that the employees in the Public Service had too many worries about security of employment.

The Chairman: With the advent of computers, and so on, technological change can have an effect there, I presume. Is there any good reason for this?

Mr. Kelly: I think the point has been made that it certainly has not been the policy of the government to have mass layoffs of government employees where there has been the introduction of technological change.

The Chairman: Would postal workers be covered?

Mr. Kelly: No, postal workers would not be covered by this bill, but the demand for this has come from the private sector, where there are mass layoffs, where contracts made on one set of assumptions can be almost declared null and void by the introduction of technological change. I know of no occasion when the government has engaged in any kind of mass layoff of their employees, even where technological change is introduced; they are absorbed in other operations.

The Chairman: Is it not true that there have been a number of difficulties in the postal service over technological change?

Mr. Kelly: Yes. While we are not familiar with the bargaining at the moment—it comes under the Public Service Staff Relations Act—one of the prime demands, I understand, is job security, and it might well be they could negotiate, in their collective agreement, job security provisions far superior to any that could be provided through this bill.

Senator Lawson: If they are unable to do so, there is no way the provisions of this bill could be extended to them?

Mr. Kelly: There is no way.

Senator Lawson: There would have to be a separate amendment to the Public Service Staff Relations Act?

Mr. Kelly: That is right.

The Chairman: So they are not covered merely because they have not asked for it?

Mr. Kelly: No. They do not operate under this act. They operate under the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

Senator Goldenberg: It is not the Department of Labour that is involved; it is the Treasury Board.

Senator Grosart: Senator Goldenberg made some remarks last night about the construction industry. If my memory serves me well, I think he said that perhaps some other legislation, or other arrangements, might be necessary to cover problems in the construction industry. Is that so, Senator Goldenberg?

Senator Goldenberg: Yes. I was not recommending this as a perfect bill. I said I was sure that in due course there would be improvements. As an example, I said that, based on my own experience, I think there will have to be special provisions for the construction industry in due course. It is a different kind of industry, and it applies to construction in the Northwest Territories where they come under federal jurisdiction. This was by way of example of further changes that I expect will be made. I do not think everything can be covered at one fell swoop.

Senator Grosart: What would be the specific problems in the construction industry in the Northwest Territories or elsewhere under federal jurisdiction? What would be the problems in respect of this bill? Where would it be inadequate?

Senator Goldenberg: Mr. Chairman, if I am going to embark on that, might I say that I edited a 700-page book on the subject, published in 1969.

The Chairman: You can send Senator Grosart a copy.

Senator Goldenberg: I would be glad to send Senator Grosart a copy. It is a very long and involved subject.

Senator Grosart: I am behind in my reading.

Senator Goldenberg: I will bring you up to date.

Senator Grosart: I would suggest to Senator Goldenberg that it may be important to know his views on this, because if there is an inadequacy in this bill, now is the time to have an indication of it from an expert such as Senator Goldenberg.