

*Government Orders*

Once again we have a situation where the government is saying that federally regulated private sector employers have to do this and thus but as a government is exempting itself. That approach has not been well accepted by organizations that represent employers across this country in labour standards and in issues like employment equity.

We want to explore whether the government is prepared to include the same provisions for its own employees as it requires for others. We frankly think that a public sector worker who is pregnant or nursing has the right to the same protection as a private sector worker who is pregnant or nursing. We happen to believe that a disabled worker in the public sector who happens to become ill or injured on the job deserves the same protection as a private sector employee; not just at the whim of the employer and by policy manuals of the employer.

Perhaps we will have answers to these questions when the bill is in committee. Certainly good management-labour relations require balance between the two parties to the relationship. It is in Canada's best interest to continue to work toward a more co-operative, more collaborative approach to management-labour relations if in fact we want a competitive and productive economy and a sane society.

**Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the speech very much but there were a couple of significant omissions. I guess my question would be: What exactly is the Liberal position on wage controls?

We remember in this country and in this House the kinds of complaints about the wage controls the Conservative government has placed on the Public Service over the years. The Liberal Party stands in the House regularly and criticizes them. We all remember Pierre Elliott Trudeau and the entire Liberal Party when they imposed the six and five program on the Public Service. We all remember the 1974 election in which Pierre Elliott Trudeau stood and said: "Of course we will never impose wage and price controls on the public sector".

That is the first interesting recollection the member forgot in her speech. What exactly is the position in the Liberal Party on wage controls?

Second, I remember when the Trudeau government was in the House and time after time after time it refused to bargain in good faith with the employees of the Public Service of Canada and simply ordered them back to work. There was all kinds of controversy.

The hon. member talked about good management practices. Good management practices for a Liberal government was that the hammer fell on the employee again. In many cases there was no attempt to put in place rudimentary dispute resolution processes. The government simply hammered the employees back to work with take it or leave it agreements.

Although I enjoyed the principles outlined very much in the hon. member's speech, I have seen previous Liberal governments smash those principles to pieces under an iron boot. I wonder if she has a comment.

**Mrs. Catterall:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly do. I will admit that the hon. member's recollection in this House is much longer than mine.

I did not hear the member putting forward his own party's position on these issues. I am not sure that gives him any right to ask anybody else to do it. However we already know a bit about the NDP's policy on these issues. I heard speakers from the NDP yesterday speak against the provision for a legislated right to order a vote on the last offer of the employer.

• (1600)

However, we all know that Bob Rae, the premier of an NDP government in Ontario used that provision in provincial legislation very handily to terminate a strike by TTC workers to have a settlement reached and to have them back to work.

Major revisions to labour legislation in Ontario are causing severe concerns among businesses about the economic soundness of the policy of the Government of Ontario for that matter. Premier Rae, the NDP premier of Ontario has chosen not to remove the very provision that his party has spoken against in this House.