

Question of Privilege

The number invited totalled not four, as was suggested by Mr. Goodis, but 15. The five agencies which were invited to bid for the major English advertising contract in particular account among them for 40 per cent of all the business done in this field in Canada. Rather than being the "pets" of any minister or government, they are acknowledged by both public and private interests to be the leading practitioners of their profession in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has great hesitation in interrupting the minister, particularly in view of the fact that she has received the consent or unanimous agreement of the house to make a statement at this time, presumably on the question of privilege. I have a very serious doubt as to whether it is a question of privilege at all. The minister is questioning the accuracy of statements made outside the house, and I suggest to her that perhaps another opportunity might be afforded to her to rectify the record, if she feels that the record ought to be rectified.

I submit with the greatest of deference to the minister that there is really no question of privilege. I have heard the substance of what she proposes to say at this time, and as I say I hesitate to interrupt her, but I would ask her not to pursue her statement and to bring it on at another occasion.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If you think there is no question of privilege in the statement being made by the minister, I think the matter should end right there.

Mr. Speaker: This, of course, is what the Chair is suggesting. However, there is nothing to prevent the minister from making a statement on another occasion, but not as a question of privilege.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it could be asked whether the minister will found a motion on the question of privilege. Is that not the test?

Mr. Speaker: The minister can make a motion if there is a prima facie question of privilege. The Chair is of the opinion that there is not.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

TABLING OF INSTRUMENTS ADOPTED AT FORTY NINTH CONFERENCE

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with article 19 of the constitution of the International Labour

[Miss LaMarsh.]

Organization I wish to table the texts in English and French of the instruments adopted at the forty ninth international labour conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June, 1965. The instruments consist of two international labour conventions and three recommendations.

The constitution of the I.L.O. requires a member state to bring conventions and recommendations "before the authority or authorities within whose competence the matter lies for the enactment of legislation or other action". In the case of a federal state there is the further obligation on the part of the member state to refer instruments which are wholly or partially within provincial legislation jurisdiction to appropriate provincial authorities "for the enactment of legislation or other action", and to arrange for periodic consultations with a view to promoting co-ordinated action to give effect to the provisions of the instruments.

The opinion of the Minister of Justice, a copy of which I am also tabling, is that each of the five instruments adopted last July is partially within federal legislative jurisdiction and partially within provincial jurisdiction.

There has been considerable interest in recent months in the possibility of ratifying more I.L.O. conventions the subject matter of which falls wholly or partially within provincial jurisdiction. There has been correspondence with the provinces concerning a number of conventions, and the matter was discussed on January 14 at a federal-provincial conference of ministers of labour.

Of the five instruments adopted at last years' conference of the I.L.O., four concern underground employment in mines. There is a convention plus a supplementary recommendation on minimum age for such employment underground, a recommendation on medical examination of young persons employed underground and a recommendation on conditions of underground employment of young persons in mines.

As many hon. members are no doubt aware, there is no provision in the I.L.O. constitution for the ratification of recommendations, whose purpose is to serve as a guide to member governments as to desirable policy. Conventions on the other hand may be ratified if the legislation and policy in a country corresponds with the requirements of the instrument.

In the case of the conventions relating to young persons in mines, it appears that Canadian legislation and policy for the most