

CANADA LABOUR CODE

PROVISION FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY
COMMISSION TO SETTLE STRIKES OR LOCKOUTS
AGAINST NATIONAL OR PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-234, to amend the Canada Labour Code.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the industrial relations part of the Canada Labour Code to provide that, where a strike or lockout is against the national or public interest, the government may appoint an Industrial Inquiry Commission to make a final and binding settlement subject to government variation and adoption. Forthwith upon the appointment of the commission the strike or lockout, apprehended or occurring in respect of such dispute or difference, is prohibited; no employee shall strike and no employer shall lock out his employees—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but we had a similar incident a few days ago when I thought a member went a little too far in giving the brief explanation that is allowed under the terms of Standing Order 68(2). I would hope hon. members would not depart from that well-established practice.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member shall have leave to introduce the said bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be unanimity. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Nelson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the motion was not seconded by the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Nelson).

An hon. Member: Thank God.

Mr. Speaker: By the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds).

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF WIDOW OF LATE PRESIDENT
OF CHILE

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (York North): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to draw to your attention and to the attention of the House that we have with us in the gallery today Mrs. Salvador Allende, widow of the late president of Chile.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

OIL—INTENTION OF SUPPLYING COMPANIES REGARDING
RESORT TO "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE RESPECTING
DELIVERIES TO CANADA

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who said in the House on November 27, as found on page 8171 of *Hansard*, with regard to suppliers of oil who are now making reference to *force majeure*.

I am not sure whether they have done so specifically so far or merely indicated their intention to do so.

I ask the minister whether he has now had an opportunity to make inquiries as to what supplying companies have indicated an intention to resort to a *force majeure* clause with regard to the cutting back, or possible cutting back, of deliveries of oil to Canada from non-Arab countries?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman will have seen a number of rather categorical statements by some of the Canadian refiners as to the present situation, although their remarks were also hedged with regard to the future. At the moment we do not have any definite indication, except perhaps an indication in the *Globe and Mail*, of a specific interruption for the future. But as I pointed out to the hon. gentleman several days ago, and repeated yesterday, we have through the technical liaison committee the indication that if the trend of international interruption continues this is a condition which may be invoked.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the minister every opportunity to tell the House what inquiries he has made this week since making his statement on Monday night to determine what supplying companies have indicated they may resort to invoking a *force majeure* clause with regard to deliveries to Canada, because this is a matter of the greatest importance and the minister has made a public statement as well as statements in the House. I am sure the House wants to give the minister every opportunity to indicate whether or not he had any basis in fact for the assertion he made.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, to repeat again, the basis was on the advice received from the industry through the technical liaison committee.

Mr. Stanfield: As the minister is the responsible minister with regard to this matter and as he has indicated to the Canadian people that they may be confronted by shortages, and particularly as certain major companies in Canada have indicated they know nothing about this, has he made any inquiries himself with regard to what companies in Canada might be affected by a *force majeure* clause and what companies supplying Canada from non-Arabian sources might be affected, or is the minister simply trying to hide behind some technical committee he has established, failing to get the information himself and