

## Canada Labour (Standards) Code

• (3:30 p.m.)

## CANADA LABOUR (STANDARDS) CODE

AMENDMENT RESPECTING HOLIDAYS FOR  
LONGSHOREMEN

subject of draft dodgers from the United States, there are some 1,500 to 3,000 draft dodgers who have come to Canada and are now living here, with the expectation that in years ahead they will take out citizenship. What is the attitude of the government with regard to giving consideration to their obtaining citizenship, in view of their refusal to accept the responsibilities of United States citizenship which were theirs?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to discuss this matter with the minister, but as my right hon. friend is no doubt aware, it would be very difficult to give a general answer to a question of this kind in respect of individuals who might be applying in the future for citizenship. I am sure at that time each individual application will have to be considered on its merits, and all the factors, including the kind of thing mentioned by my right hon. friend, will have to be taken into consideration. I will discuss this with the minister.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the Prime Minister indicate whether or not there has been any communication from the administration of the United States protesting against the fact that these people are being welcomed into Canada and, indeed, that a certain Canadian organization has been set up for the purpose of assisting them in what they are doing?

**Mr. Pearson:** There has been no such communication to my knowledge. I think I should check into this matter, Mr. Speaker.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

BRITISH COLUMBIA—RELEASE OF TRADE  
UNIONISTS DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Solicitor General I should like to address my question to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that Christmas is almost here I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary could report on the possibility of the four trade unionists, imprisoned as a result of the Lenkurt Electric dispute, being given an opportunity to be at home with their families for Christmas and the New Year?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Solicitor General does not have a parliamentary assistant, perhaps I should discuss this matter with the minister.

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**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour)** moved the second reading of Bill No. S-54, to amend the Canada Labour (Standards) Code.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the Canada Labour (Standards) Code, which is chapter 38 of the statutes of 1965, provides for eight general holidays with pay in a year. However, an employee is not entitled to a general holiday with pay if it occurs during his first 30 days of employment with an individual employer or if he has not worked at least 15 days during the 30 calendar days immediately preceding the general holiday. The act does not prohibit work on a holiday, therefore it is not work on holidays with which we are concerned in this amending bill.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. There are some of us who would like to hear the words of the minister. Perhaps we could have a little less noise in the house.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. As I understand the hon. member, he as well as perhaps others, are having difficulty in hearing the minister's statement. Perhaps hon. members will keep that in mind and carry on their conversations, if they are necessary, in *sotto voce*.

**Mr. Nicholson:** As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the act does not prohibit work on a holiday, so when work is performed on a holiday no problem arises. However, in the longshore industry, even where longshoremen work regularly for eight and a half months of a year or on a yearly basis, many are unable to meet the regulations in respect of general holidays because they have not built up sufficient continuous employment with any one employer over a 30-day period. It is part of the regular pattern in the longshore industry, in both eastern and western Canada and on the great lakes, for longshoremen to work a few days or perhaps even a few hours for each of several employers over a 30-day period. I submit they should not, for this reason, be denied the rights to which employees who have steady employment with a single employer are entitled. That is one of the two objects of this bill.

A further problem exists in that some longshoremen may by chance have sufficient credit with one employer to qualify for an annual vacation with pay, while others with equal or