

So, honourable senators, while many of us would like to see the federal minimum wage higher than \$1.75 an hour, yet I think we probably have to accept the argument of the minister against making it any higher at this time as being a valid argument. Personally, since it will now be possible to raise the minimum wage by order in council, I hope that it will not be too long before the federal minimum wage rate will be at least \$2 per hour.

I believe the other new provisions of the bill are not only welcome but overdue. Certainly the provision, modest though it is, for severance pay deserves support. However, I want to protest again against using severance pay, holiday pay or wage arrears as an excuse for denying unemployment insurance to a laid-off worker for the first two weeks of his unemployment.

The notices to be given when industrial lay-offs are expected should also be helpful. I noticed in the evidence given before the committee of the other place that concern was expressed about where a strike or a works stoppage in one industry could force another to close and it would not be possible to give the required notices. This is a valid objection, and I expect it will have to be resolved by the authority given to make regulations.

I think, too, the provision for maternity leave will find general acceptance. Indeed, as has been pointed out by the sponsor (Hon. Mr. Prowse), it is connected, as it were, with the new provision in the Unemployment Insurance Act dealing with the same matter.

Mention has been made of the provision of equal wages for equal work. It is good that discrimination is pretty well done away with in these industries coming under federal jurisdiction. Personally, I could never understand why there should be any differential in wages paid to persons doing the same work. I am a great believer in equal pay for equal work, and that is why I protest against the policy of the Government itself in paying different wage rates for the same work done in different parts of Canada. I charge the Government with practising discrimination in their own wage rates on a geographical basis.

Only last April there was a particularly vicious example of this. Wage rates were being negotiated by the Government with their own employees in the dockyards of Halifax and British Columbia. The Government insisted on the British Columbia workers receiving a higher wage rate than those in Halifax for doing exactly the same kind of work. Honourable senators may find it difficult to credit this, but the President of the Treasury Board, instead of apologizing for such action, tried to justify it.

Here was an opportunity for the Government to give real leadership in overcoming economic disparity, to give real leadership as a fine example to private industry, yet instead of doing so the Government chose to perpetuate this pernicious system. I realize that this type of discrimination cannot be corrected by this bill, so while I support the bill I urge the Government to end geographical discrimination in order to make the principle of equal pay for equal work apply to all.

[Hon. Mr. Macdonald.]

Honourable senators, this bill was given consideration in detail by the committee of the other place. Unless there is some group of persons or organizations who have indicated they wish to make representations to our committee, I do not believe any good purpose would be served by sending it to a committee.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Honourable senators, I am not sure whether any representations have been made, and I would therefore move that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

## BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

### ADDITION TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald,** with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1) (h), moved:

That the name of the honourable Senator Smith be added to the list of senators serving on the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, has the honourable Senator McDonald leave to proceed with his motion?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

## BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

**Hon. A. Hamilton McDonald:** Honourable senators, I wonder if we might recess now to the call of the bell at approximately 3 o'clock? We have progressed fairly well in our work in the chamber this morning, but there is considerable work to be done in our committees. We should be in a position to come back into the house at about 3 o'clock.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** Has not an arrangement been made that Senator White should speak at 2 o'clock?

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** There was an arrangement.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I said "approximately". Perhaps the bell will ring at 2 o'clock. I should like to see Senator White when we leave the chamber.

**Hon. Mr. Flynn:** Perhaps we could adjourn to the call of the bell at 2 o'clock. There would be no problem in not ringing the bell until 3 o'clock.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** I will see Senator White in the meantime.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I should like to know the approximate time to which we are adjourning.