

**CANADA LABOUR (STANDARDS)  
CODE BILL**

**FIRST READING**

**The Hon. the Speaker** informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-126, respecting hours of work, minimum wages, annual vacations and holidays with pay in federal works, undertakings and businesses.

Bill read first time.

**SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED**

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

**Hon. Donald Smith,** with leave, moved second reading.

He said: Honourable senators, I feel that I should thank my leader for assigning to me the task of introducing this Labour (Standards) Code bill to the Senate. I take it as a compliment to myself, and I also regard it as a personal pleasure, stemming from the fact that the present Minister of Labour has been for a dozen years or more a very good personal friend of mine, and I, like a great many other Nova Scotians and, indeed, Canadians in general, have watched with interest the successful way he has managed his department of government since he assumed office.

We all recall that he entered the cabinet as Minister of Labour during a very troublesome time, but he was able to overcome those difficulties. I feel I must mention that it was a hectic time. After seeking the approval of Parliament, he was able to bring about a peaceful solution to the strife and violence associated with shipping on the Great Lakes. Under the legislation, we recall, he appointed a Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Victor Dryer to administer the affairs of the powerful Seafarers' International Union. The first objective of that legislation and the first objective of the Board of Trustees was realized almost immediately when the seamen voted to return to work. Since that time and, of course, following the dismissal by the Board of Trustees of Hal Banks, there has been no trouble or harassment on the Great Lakes, either in Canada or the United States. Furthermore, I think it important to note that before long democratic elections of new officers had been held and internal changes made in the union.

In terms of our economy alone, this must be regarded as a valuable contribution. I point to this work with which he was associated with some pride, as evidence of the success which followed his efforts to settle the longshoremen's strike on the St. Law-

rence ports at a time when it was absolutely necessary for our economic health that the unprecedented cargoes of grain be got out of the St. Lawrence Seaway before the annual freeze-up.

It is that kind of action on the part of the Minister of Labour, imposed on him fairly early in the game, that made me, as one of his old friends, very proud of him. I am also glad that he has been successful in having the Government enact legislation in other labour fields, and I fully expect that Bill C-126, which breaks new ground, will stand many years as another monument to the public service being performed by the minister from Nova Scotia.

Honourable senators who have had an opportunity to read through Bill C-126 will note in the first place that it is a bill comprising 54 clauses spread over 22 pages. It is not one the principle of which I can skip over quickly. There are, perhaps, a few remarks which I should make on the principle of the bill, and also some necessary explanations so that honourable senators on both sides of the chamber will have an understanding of the kind of legislation now before us.

This bill, as the title says, is an act respecting hours of work, minimum wages, annual vacations and holidays with pay in federal works, undertakings and businesses. I believe it to be a logical further step in the regulation of working conditions in those industries which come under federal jurisdiction. I think we should remind ourselves when thinking in terms of this particular legislation that there are a number of other acts in this field which have shown their worth and which I should list at this time. They are: the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, the Canadian Fair Employment Practices Act, the Female Employees Equal Pay Act, and the Annual Vacations Act.

Every province in Canada has already accepted the principle of or the responsibility for establishing minimum conditions under which people will have to work in industries under provincial jurisdiction. My reading of the subject matter indicates that all provinces have minimum wage laws and all have some legislation dealing with hours of work. Most of them have set standards for annual vacations and pay for holidays. This bill will, therefore, fill a gap in this field of labour standards in Canada, since it will apply to all undertakings within the legislative authority of the federal Parliament.

Activities normally under provincial jurisdiction are, of course, excluded under the