

Government Orders

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, it is customary that the member moving the motion explain briefly what the purpose of the motion is. I think we got a bit ahead of ourselves there.

There is some concern that under the provisions of this act the federal cabinet would be able to make an agreement with a provincial government to have the provincial labour laws apply to an offshore oil rig or any other item covered under this act. We are concerned that that may be done in order to avoid the more onerous provisions of the Canada Labour Code that may in fact be in place at the provincial level.

We want to make certain that the federal code shall apply and that there is no way that the cabinet could transfer jurisdiction to the provinces in order to provide a lesser requirement to employers in these situations.

• (1630)

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I do not think this amendment is necessary. There is nothing in the bill now that would limit the application of the Canada Labour Code or any other federal legislation for that matter. As a result it is not necessary to have it in the bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the nays have it.

An hon. member: On division.

Motion No. 2 (Mr. Angus) negatived.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan) moved:

Motion No. 3

That Bill C-39 be amended in Clause 12 by striking out line 16 at page 8 and substituting the following therefor:

“least one hundred and twenty days before the proposed effective”

He said: Mr. Speaker, this amendment is very simple. It doubles the notice and consultation period provided

for under section 12 of the bill. Because of our belief in the potential for dramatic changes in the application of laws at the whim of cabinet, it is important to maximize the opportunity for people to find out and comment on regulations made under this act, particularly if the decision is to choose the lesser of onerous applications of either environmental laws or labour laws.

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I do not share the fears of the hon. member. These regulations are not created, suggested, and implemented in a vacuum. Once they are proposed, we have a 60-day notice period in *The Canada Gazette*, which is the usual period of time. That would give anyone who may have an interest and was not informed up to that period of time adequate time to take into consideration the new regulations.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, not many Canadians read *The Canada Gazette*. It is of assistance to have these issues of policy and direction made part of the legislation, particularly legislation of such important symbolic value.

I urge government members to accept this amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion No. 3 (Mr. Angus) negatived.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (for the Minister of Justice) moved that the bill be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): When shall the bill be read a third time? By leave, now?

Some hon. members: Now.

Mr. Beatty (for the Minister of Justice) moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I will just make a few comments on this matter.

First I would like to thank members from all sides of the House who served on this committee. I would particularly like to point out the contributions of the hon. member for Red Deer.