

Farm Credit Act

Mr. MacEachen: I do not want to create any difficulty by calling that item, but if it is agreeable and if the mover of the first amendment is ready, then I would call it and hope the minister would return to the House as quickly as possible. In the meantime, his parliamentary secretary would stand in for him.

Mr. Baldwin: We are prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker. The member of our party who has moved the amendment is here, as would other hon. members have been had it not been for this very important meeting. I think it would be conducive to good management and would facilitate the business of the House if we were to move to the Canada Labour Code.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to talk on either the farm credit bill or the Canada Labour Code, but if the switch is made to the latter I should like to reserve some rights about the order of the amendments, in view of the fact that one or two of our members are not in the chamber at this point because of the change of plan effected by a certain member on the other side of the House.

• (1550)

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we could consider the Canada Labour Code.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Is there unanimous consent that we not continue at this time with Bill C-5.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, if the other parties are ready to proceed with the Canada Labour Code, we could proceed with it. Apparently there is some willingness to consider the Canada Labour Code. If not, we could possibly ask for third reading of the Family Income Security Plan.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): But the minister is not present.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I notice that the House is now faced with problems. I have listened most carefully to all the points of order and to the questions of procedure that have been raised.

I can understand perfectly the stand taken by the members of the committee on agriculture, especially by those interested in the Canadian Wheat Board. It is abundantly clear that the House is anxious to deal with Bill C-5, an Act to amend the Farm Credit Act, and also with the proposed amendment to that bill.

So far as we are concerned, we are willing to vote in favour of the motion to adjourn our proceedings on Bill C-5, and to revert to consideration of bill C-183, an Act to amend the Canada Labour Code.

I express the hope that the last motion introduced will carry unanimously, and we are willing to vote for it.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to adjourn this debate?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since it has been decided that we are not at present to continue consideration of the farm credit bill in view of difficulties occasioned by hon. members having to attend the agricultural committee, may I on behalf of my party ask the government House leader to assure us that after the Canada Labour Code has been dealt with the farm credit bill will be brought back to the House.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to give the farm credit bill high priority.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS,
LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD, INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY
COMMISSIONS AND CONCILIATION BOARDS

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-183, to amend the Canada Labour Code, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West) moved motion No. 1 as follows:

That Bill C-183, an act to amend the Canada Labour Code, be amended by deleting lines 1 to 29 on page 1 thereof and striking out the words "Now Therefore," where they appear in line 1 on page 2 thereof.

He said: Mr. Speaker, one can see what happens when the government backs down from an original position and attempts to bring in legislation at the last minute. The government has had a whole year—

An hon. Member: No, four years.

Mr. Alexander:—in which to bring in this particular piece of legislation. That is irresponsible, since hon. members who may wish to debate this bill have not been given sufficient notice. Notwithstanding these difficulties, we will debate the bill since we on this side can face almost any situation. We are certainly prepared to proceed.

The purpose of this amendment is quite obvious, I think. It seeks to remove from the bill the preamble as printed. If we reflect for a moment upon the entire collective bargaining process, we will have valid reason for thinking that many people, those covered by union-management arrangements and those not so covered, question the efficacy of the collective bargaining process. I say that because the port of Montreal, in Trois-Rivières and Quebec City no one seems to be concerned about the provisions of the Canada Labour Code as now in effect. The law, apparently, is being flouted and collective agreements are being flouted.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Alexander: Apparently the government does not know what to do even though the public interest is being