

the enacting provisions. The preamble is not, however, of the same weight as an aid to construction of a section of the act as are other relevant enacting words to be found elsewhere in the act or even in related acts. There may be no exact correspondence between preamble and enactment, and the enactment may go beyond, or it may fall short of the indications that may be gathered from the preamble. Again, the preamble cannot be of much or any assistance in construing provisions which embody qualifications or exceptions from the operation of the general purpose of the act. It is only when it conveys a clear and definite meaning in comparison with relatively obscure or indefinite enacting words that the preamble may legitimately prevail.

Then he comes to the general rule which has been mentioned by the minister, by the hon. member for Edmonton West, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for Hamilton West, that the preamble means nothing; the act itself is important. If the minister is satisfied that this proposed legislation will bring about economic and industrial peace and will still be fair to both labour and management, they being responsible within the law, then he has done his job.

• (2140)

Basically, this preamble means nothing. The only reason it is there is that the minister and the government are concerned that they are not satisfying labour nor management, and that there is likely to be an election this fall. If the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is still frightened, we will have one according to the constitution even if we have to go to the Supreme Court of Canada to obtain the right to have it.

I thought the minister added something new to that department. I thought he was sincere, though sometimes he appears to be a little sad or apologetic. But now he brings in a preamble which is a straight, political platform and means nothing. I was not on the committee that studied the bill, but it appears that it might be selling labour or management a little short. One thing is sure, however—it is selling the Canadian people short. I listened to my friends in the New Democratic Party.

An hon. Member: As you always do.

Mr. Woolliams: It is clear that Saskatchewan has been pretty kind to the CCF, Mr. Speaker. That is where the first socialist experiment took place. The farmers of Saskatchewan have been pretty kind, too, giving them a few seats in the legislature. But I would like to have a mouse in the caucus to find out where they stand when they speak to the grain farmers.

The port of Montreal has been tied up so that we cannot ship wheat and contracts are broken. Since 1968 there have been so many strikes on the west coast that wheat cannot be shipped. How does this party manage to hold seats for the wheat farmers? How can they hold seats, with labour union leaders like the leader of their party who is at least a solicitor for unions? It is beyond me.

I should like to have the unanimous consent of the House to hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), who has been connected with the labour movement in this country, explain to the people of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, agricultural provinces, why the party almost continually supports industrial unrest. It would take a magician to do it, but somehow they manage

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to get the farmers and labour of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to vote for them.

In his speech the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) said that what we are trying to legislate tonight is industrial peace. Surely that is important, Mr. Speaker. If it is not one group on strike, it is another. We cannot get the wheat out of the country. It is all very well to talk about great markets and contracts, but in the last four years Canada has dropped from first place to sixth place as a nation trading in grain. If I am to be kind to the government for a moment, I must say it was not really because of their agricultural and trade policies but because there has not been industrial peace in this nation. Without it, we cannot compete against Japan, Germany and the United States. While our ships waited in Vancouver month after month to be loaded with wheat to meet our contracts with the U.S.S.R., the United States was loading ships in Seattle with American wheat.

Mr. Mackasey: Not true.

Mr. Woolliams: In the story "How Green was my Valley", which was written at the time of the industrial revolution in Great Britain and dealt with the suffering of the coal miners, the old man told his sons that they could only achieve their ends if they did it with responsibility. That is the important factor, Mr. Speaker, and it is the only way to get industrial peace. Management must be responsible and labour must be responsible.

With the greatest respect to the Minister of Labour (Mr. O'Connell), I do not think much of this preamble. Maybe his legal advisers told him it was necessary, but it is nothing. If he needed it to bolster this act, he would be better to throw the whole thing on the garbage heap because it is nothing.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of speaking at this time but as I listened to the hon. member who just sat down, several questions occurred to me. I have not been able to figure out which part of his speech referred to the preamble of this bill.

Mr. Woolliams: I read from a legal text; I cannot do more than that.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should try to understand, although I do not suppose it is possible, that when workers in Canada talk about the right to collective bargaining it means their right to bargain and to negotiate about conditions of work, wages, holidays, grievance procedures, and so on. It means that they will be able to decide what is important, on their own. It means that nobody can tell them what to do if they follow the proper procedure.

I agree with the hon. member, since trade unions are composed of human beings who are fallible, that there have been strikes which probably were not very wise. The workers themselves are making decisions on principle, Mr. Speaker. They are not influenced by outsiders, by people like the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), by members of the NDP or by anybody else. Of course, the hon. member may deplore strikes. They cause inconvenience. I can understand the concern of wheat farmers who want to move their grain. I can understand