

*Supply*

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) has raised one of the major problems that we face. We must all take it very seriously. Adequate consideration has not been given to the training and retraining of persons either entering the workforce or presently in the workforce to allow them the opportunity to enter into new types of work, and take new kinds of advancement. I mention that, Sir, because I had said during my remarks that what the Canada Labour Code needed was complementary legislation from other Ministers, particularly from the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Roberts), so we could deal with this question of more adequate training programs throughout the country. What he does not seem to realize is that not only do we have great numbers of young people coming out of school and universities going into the workplace, but we have the possibility of something between 3 million and 4 million people in the workforce who will require retraining in order to take advantage of the technological age. That is a massive job of organization. The Government has not really begun to turn its mind to what has to be the biggest challenge of mobilization which the country has ever faced. I compliment the Hon. Member from Bow River for raising this question and for saying that the Government must get on with giving higher priority to it, and we all must do so as Members of Parliament.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert):** That concludes the ten-minute period for questions and comments. Continuing with debate, the Hon. Member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Tousignant).

● (1740)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Henri Tousignant (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be taking part in the debate on amendments to the Canada Labour Code, in other words, Bill C-34. I must admit that after what I just heard, I feel a bit uneasy. Someone shouted across the House, a little earlier: "Where were you in 1954?" Later, the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) said: "Where were you in 1917?" Well... As far as I am concerned, I am afraid I am a little too young to react to these comments.

Nevertheless, I think we should look to the future instead of looking back. I also listened, of course, to the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) who made some excellent suggestions, some very laudable ones, and her intentions were laudable as well, and I am thinking of her suggestion that the Bill should have included Canada's two million part-time workers... And of course, employees who spend the whole day in front of a video display terminal... There is some concern about the impact this could have on their health. There is also technological change, which will mean, inevitably, that many people will have to be laid off or recycled in some way or another. As I said before, these are all excellent suggestions made by the Hon. Member who usually

has good suggestions about Bills the Government is introducing.

However, it is clear that if we wanted to examine draft legislation very thoroughly, we would never see the end of it. If we want to make Bills perfect in every respect, we would have to examine them for a very long time. I think the Government has decided to act, while keeping the option of amending these Bills again later on. I think that if we consider the statements made by a number of labour and management leaders, it is high time the Canadian Government took action.

I would like to refer here to a statement by Mrs. Shirley Carr, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress, who said during an interview on the CBC—she was still Vice-President at the time—that the amendments could not have been tabled many months ago because they did not contain everything they asked for. It is also interesting to note that on the same occasion, a representative of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Mr. Gil Levine, stated that "The labour movement in Canada is pushing for adoption of the amendments proposed by Mr. Ouellet, despite their limitations, because we believe that with a new Government, Liberal or Conservative, and especially under a Conservative Government—Mr. Speaker, I am still quoting Mr. Levine—it will be years before these improvements are felt."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me and probably to most Members of this House that the amendments were tabled at the right time and that they are more than welcome. This proves that the Government has not neglected its responsibility in the area of labour legislation.

As the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ouellet) has already indicated, these legislative proposals have resulted from the excellent co-operation shown by the many labour organizations and employer associations during the extensive consultations which led to this Bill.

I believe that these amendments will emphasize the fact that the Canada Labour Code has always paved the way for further labour legislation and has often been used as a model by the authorities concerned.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that the amendments meet the new requirements of the eighties and are a step forward in the evolution of labour legislation in Canada.

As you know, the Canada Labour Code is the body of rules which regulate work standards, occupational safety and health, as well as the general framework for labour relations in the areas under federal jurisdiction, which employ something like 600,000 workers in Canada. These industries include those which, by their very nature, extend beyond national and provincial boundaries, for instance in the areas of transportation and communications, some 40 Crown agencies and corporations, as well as the banks and industries which Parliament has stated to be of national interest. This includes, for