

AFTER RECESS

narrow. It is based on whether documents should be or should not be produced and I trust the debate will continue in that vein.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, all I intended to say is that I do not believe the issue that is involved is one that justifies taking up so much of our time. This was a decision that was taken on the advice of the law officers of the crown. It belongs to the past. What we ought to be doing is being concerned with legislation that will assist in the removal of the rest of the surcharges as soon as possible in order that our economy can get back on its feet.

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I have one comment I should like to make in reply to the hon. member for Greenwood. He says, let us get down to the fundamentals. I want to ask him this question: is the opinion of the deputy attorney general fundamental to this question of surcharges at all? It is merely the opinion of the law officer of the crown on this subject. It is not binding, it is not final—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Aiken: It does not decide the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The time appointed for the consideration of private members' business is now expired, so the house will revert to the business that was interrupted at five o'clock.

(Translation):

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROVISION FOR ORGANIZATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MANPOWER CONSULTATION SERVICE, ETC.

The house resumed consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Starr—Mr. Paul in the chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting industrial change and manpower adjustment; to provide for the organization and maintenance of a Manpower Consultation Service; to provide also for the payment of assessment incentives for carrying out manpower adjustment programs; to provide further for the entering into agreements providing for the payment by Canada respecting a labour mobility incentive; and to establish a council called the "Advisory Council on Industrial Change and Manpower Adjustment" and to provide for the Chairman's remuneration and for certain expenses of the members of the Council.

(Text):

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Chairman, when discussion of this measure was interrupted at five o'clock I had reached the point where I said there was an apparent fear of automation among government ranks and perhaps among other hon. members of the house. As a former miner, and continuing miner when not participating in discussions in the House of Commons, I must say I have no reason to fear either automation or mechanization if we could be assured of having a progressive government prepared to meet changes and the responsibilities which these changes bring.

Of course, as we heard this afternoon, automation takes us a step further in the industrial revolution. Automation means that machines actually undertake the processes of the human mind and are able to direct themselves, but this is not something before which we must bow down in great trepidation. It is, after all, the result of union organization and the demands of the masses for a greater share of the production of the country.

However, I hope the country will not be led to believe that everything from now on will be well because of the introduction of this legislation because, as I said earlier, we have previously seen the government introduce other legislation with a great amount of volubility, which the government thought would have the effect of alleviating all our difficulties, but the government itself did not carry the process through to a proper conclusion. Therefore I trust that industries themselves will not take a laissez-faire attitude just because this legislation has been produced. They must take the initiative in this process and not believe that legislation itself will solve all our problems.

I have said I have some experience with mining, mechanization and automation, and for that reason I shall relate a few of the experiences I have had. The company with which I have been associated, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, operates the largest lead zinc mine in the world. After the last great war, when it became obvious we must reduce our costs in order to remain competitive, the company instituted a program which involved the setting up of a joint production committee. I may say in passing that I notice the productivity council has mentioned the importance of productivity committees, and we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of such a committee just last summer.

A program of job evaluation, method study and job simplification was also instituted and