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Parliamentary Summary

Bills Introduced

Government Bill

(Minister/Member in Charge Shown in Parenthesis)

24 May 1990

Labour Relations Amendment Bill.
(Rt. Hon. Helen Clark.)

Referred to Select Committee

Labour

Summary of Bill Introduced

Labour Relations Amendment Bill

This Bill amends the Labour Relations Act 1987. It also effects related amendments to certain other Acts.

The amendments to the Labour Relations Act 1987 include—

- (a) Bargaining reform measures designed—
 - (i) To ease the transition to industry bargaining;
 - (ii) To ease the transition to enterprise bargaining;
 - (iii) To protect groups of workers against the loss of document coverage in the transition process;
- (b) Amendments that confer on the Arbitration Commission special powers to deal with protracted negotiations for the making of an award;
- (c) A new section, which deals with the situation that arises where a person who is exempt from union membership seeks the right to be paid at a rate of pay below that fixed by the award;
- (d) A new section, which provides that compensation for redundancy is not required to be paid to a worker who, on the sale or transfer of a business, retains his or her job, conditions of employment, and service entitlements;
- (e) New sections in relation to Labour Inspectors and their powers;
- (f) A new section that enables a youth worker who is not covered by a union to use the personal grievance procedures;
- (g) A new section providing for the appointment of a Deputy Chief Mediator;
- (h) A new section providing for the imposition of a fine on a person who refuses or neglects, without sufficient cause, to comply with a witness summons issued by the Registrar of the Labour Court;
- (i) Amendments that enable the rules of a union to provide that the principal officer of the union or of any branch may be appointed rather than elected. The maximum term of each period of appointment is not to exceed 5 years and there are limitations on the powers that an appointed principal officer may exercise;
- (j) Amendments that make the loading and unloading of ships at any port an “essential service”;
- (k) Minor amendments that rectify technical problems that have become apparent in a review of the operation of the Labour Relations Act 1987.