

Supply—Labour

welfare increased by between 14 and 19 per cent. I notice that the hon. member for Stormont is not here. He is always coming to the rescue of the Minister of Labour when we are talking about people being unemployed. It was indicated that in Cornwall the increase in the number of those on welfare was higher than in any other place in Ontario.

Mr. Pugh: Caused by the building of the seaway.

Mr. Chevrier: A lot you know about it.

Mr. McMillan: I do not know whether that is right but that appeared in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

Mr. Chevrier: That is completely false.

Mr. Pickersgill: At least the seaway was built, unlike the Columbia.

Mr. McMillan: That was reported in the *Globe and Mail* two weeks ago. I do not know whether it is correct.

Mr. Pallett: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member made reference to the fact that the hon. member for Stormont was not in the chamber. I appreciate that the hon. gentleman may not have seen the hon. member for Stormont sitting in his seat but perhaps he should correct that statement now.

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely the hon. member for Stormont is capable of speaking for himself. If he is not, it is the first time.

An hon. Member: He just came in.

Mr. Campbell (Stormont): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Stormont has been in his seat all the time. He has been conferring with a colleague. Open your eyes.

Mr. McMillan: What was that?

Mr. Pickersgill: The hon. member said he has been in the house all the time but you just did not notice him.

Mr. McMillan: I am sorry. The hon. member was not in his seat when I looked a few moments ago.

Mr. Campbell (Stormont): That is better.

Mr. McMillan: May I say I am sorry there are so many more people on welfare in Cornwall than in other parts of Ontario.

Mr. Campbell (Stormont): May I ask the hon. member a question? I think if he were to ask his colleague and my predecessor he could tell him the reason for the number of unemployed people in Cornwall. It is due to the fact that the locks have been removed from a canal which for 120 years flowed by our door. There is just a blank wall now.

[Mr. McMillan.]

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, on the point my hon. friend has raised I feel I would be entitled to say that what the hon. member has stated is not only untrue but is inaccurate and wholly unfounded. As he well knows, or should know, the reason for the large unemployment figures is because this government has shown no interest in the unemployment problem—

Mr. Campbell (Stormont): What about the harbour?

The Chairman: Order. We are now getting into a matter of debate. The floor belongs to the hon. member for Welland. I would ask him to continue.

Mr. Campbell (Stormont): On a point of order—

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is allowed to make the statement he made by way of interrupting the hon. gentleman who was already speaking, surely I am entitled to give in reply the reason for the unemployment figures being so high in Cornwall—

The Chairman: Order. Here is the situation. The hon. member for Stormont asked leave to direct a question to the hon. member who has the floor. That hon. gentleman has not yet replied nor has the hon. member who has the floor continued in the course of his remarks. If the hon. member for Stormont or the hon. member for Laurier have remarks to make they may make them in due course but their remarks are in the nature of a debate and at the moment I cannot entertain them. I can listen only to the hon. member for Welland who has the floor.

Mr. Caron: On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Stormont in putting his question to the hon. gentleman who has the floor spoke about the former member for Stormont, and the present member for Laurier is a former member for Stormont.

The Chairman: Order. I said and I repeat that in my judgment this is a matter for debate. Every hon. member who feels implicated by any remarks made, and provided they are pertinent to the debate, will have ample opportunity to make his position clear. The floor belongs to the hon. member for Welland.

Mr. Caron: These interruptions and remarks should be stopped by the Chair.

The Chairman: That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. Caron: But with success only on one side.