

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Pickersgill:**—who, while not employed by the Canadian government, has taken part in political activities in support of a candidate is ipso facto unemployable by his department? Is that what he is saying?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Chairman, civil servants very properly do not take part in political activities and, as you know, they should not do so. A person who works for the government in a seasonal capacity, as did this lady, as a civil servant during periods of employment—

**Some hon. Members:** She was not employed.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Not by any stretch of the imagination.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** She engaged in these activities when she was no longer employed by the government, but to assume in the summertime that you are a civil servant and you do not take part in politics but that in the wintertime you go to work in the political field is, I think, stretching it a bit too far. I think the house should be made aware that this is a park which has a tremendous staff and that this is the only change that was made. If memories were allowed to go back to 1935, I do not think the hon. member would be complaining as to this.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** My active participation in politics, of course, does not go back to 1935, but I think—

**An hon. Member:** What about the ones Jimmy Gardiner fired?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The hon. member can make his speech in his own time, but in my experience I, of course, have had nothing to do with anything of this kind because the situation has simply never arisen. It does seem to me that the minister is enunciating a rather dangerous principle, however, when he says that someone who in his own time takes part in politics, when he is not employed by the government—as the minister has said was the case with this lady—is for that reason and for that reason only considered to be incapacitated from receiving an appointment. I should like to ask the minister if he made the same detailed inquiries about the political activities of the person who succeeded this lady, and if he can stand up and give us a positive assurance that the person who succeeded her took no part in support of any of the candidates—

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I can answer that question very easily by saying we make no detailed investigation with regard to a person's politics in that way. I do not know

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

that anyone in my department knew who this lady was. There was no recommendation made by the local member.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The minister has said—and I am glad to hear it—that he makes no sort of inquiry about the political activities of the people employed in his department. But how, then, did he learn about the activities of Mrs. Woodman, and how did that have any effect in this one case, when the minister says they do not make any inquiries?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** My information on Mrs. Woodman came from the Liberal candidate in the constituency.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** They made it quite clear to me that they thought it was quite within the rules for a civil servant who was employed for five or six years to take time off in between and try to defeat the government which hired her. We do not discourage people from taking part in politics. We encourage them. But members of the civil service must take a proper attitude toward partisan politics, even if they are only hired for seven months a year.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I want to pursue this a little further—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I know this is not very pleasant for hon. gentlemen opposite, but we used to hear a lot of very eloquent talk from this side of the house in times past about civil rights and about the rights of Canadian citizens, particularly from one very eminent gentleman who now occupies another position and who is promising to bring a bill of rights into this country. It does seem to me very strange that the followers of this eminent gentleman seem to have so little interest in a subject which he claimed over and over again was his prime concern.

However, there are some of us who are liberals on both sides, and it seems to me that the minister has been confusing two things. If this lady was a civil servant—which the minister said earlier she was not—and engaged in political activities then, of course, under the Civil Service Act she should be dismissed. Everybody recognizes that. But she was not a civil servant. She was a seasonal employee, as the minister says. She was not working at all at the time of the election, and somebody told the department. The minister has said, with his hand on his heart, that he never makes any inquiry into the political affiliations of these people and that this lady had worked for one of the candidates. That was considered in this case