

Many of you have seen a press report of the last meeting of the Winnipeg city council which appeared in last night's papers. This press report indicates that this plant will be closed down on June 15 next due to lack of work.

It is very regrettable that this misleading information has been published in the press because it can do a great deal of harm when all the facts are not known.

I wish to be most emphatic in stating that the information concerning the closing of the plant, as reported in the press, is erroneous.

It is quite true that a considerable number of employees were laid off at the airport division and as our employees know, this lay-off was entirely from the overhaul department due to a curtailment in the use of the Anson Mark I aircraft. You also know that we have manufactured a large number of Anson II's and are at present working on the Anson V programme. Both of these later type machines will substitute for the original Anson I. The Robinson street and float departments are engaging men and in the near future will require an additional three hundred employees in order to cope with the amount of work now outstanding. For the float division, Robinson street division and airport division we have orders on the books which will carry us through at least until the fall of 1945.

Due to factors beyond our control, it was necessary to reduce the overhaul staff at the airport division in proportion to the amount of work which we now contemplate doing for the overhaul division of the Department of Munitions and Supply. We have orders from the Department of Munitions and Supply for ten overhauls per month and this will probably be increased around September or October.

I wish again to emphasize the fact that there is no foundation in fact for the report that this plant will close down, on June next and also to emphasize that we have contracts with the Department of Munitions and Supply which cannot be completed before the fall of 1945.

With that as a text I should like to say that we are suffering very greatly from statements of public men, whether in city council, provincial legislatures or particularly in this parliament, referring to the closing down of plants, when there is no foundation in fact for such statements. I sincerely wish that hon. members would not casually read an article in the press and then rise in the House of Commons and announce that a plant is to be closed. It causes a great deal of unrest in the plant. We have had the same thing happen during the last eighteen months with regard to various plants. I sincerely hope that my hon. friend will not ask a question of that kind again before finding out privately if there is something in the statement.

Mr. KNOWLES: I should like to say that I appreciate the statements the minister has made, which set aside any rumours regarding the closing down of the plant; but in connection with the rebuke he endeavoured to give me I should like to point out—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. KNOWLES: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I ask for the right to point

out that my question did not refer to any rumours as to the closing down of the plant—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. KNOWLES: —I asked only about lay-offs taking place.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

OTTAWA PAINT WORKS—CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MEN ARE REPLACED BY BOYS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour regarding sweat labour in Ottawa. I am informed that men at the Ottawa Paint Works who earn an average of fifty cents an hour were replaced by boys of about eighteen who were paid \$15 a week; that their job is to load and unload barrels of white lead weighing three or four hundred pounds, and that those boys are frozen on the job. If that is the case, it is just sweat labour and I ask the minister to investigate it at once. Would the minister be kind enough to tell me if he will investigate the case?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): Yes.

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL

SUGGESTED PUBLICATION IN "VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS" OF SPEECH OF MAY 24

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Yesterday I asked a question about the publication of Mr. Churchill's speech of the day before in *Votes and Proceedings*. Can the Minister of Mines and Resources give me any information in that regard?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): When my hon. friend brought this matter up yesterday I asked that it stand until to-day. I have been a bit remiss in my duty. I was engaged in the house yesterday and omitted to mention the matter to the Prime Minister. I do not think the matter has come to his attention. I think before the rather novel procedure as suggested by my hon. friend is adopted perhaps the Prime Minister should give some consideration to it. I promise to make a reply on Monday.

CIVIL AVIATION

INQUIRY AS TO ENLARGEMENT OF STEVENSON FIELD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. H. KNOWLES (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Munitions and Supply which differs from the question I asked a few moments ago. Has the minister received from