

to go through. He has said that he did not wittingly withhold any information from the committee. The whole difficulty existed in the different parties securing their figures from different sources.

That is, from the statistics branch and the dairy branch. To all intents and purposes they were both the same; the statistics from the dairy branch were based on those from the bureau of statistics, and the figures are so arranged that they do not conflict.

Well, for four days we have been endeavouring to get certain information, and the hon. gentleman is not conscious of having wittingly withheld it. Has he been in a trance all these four days, that he did not know what we wanted?

Either he was in a trance, or all the rest of us were. I intimated in one place that I had asked four times for the information, and that I would ask for it four times four, until I got it. The discussion ended some time after the information was brought down in that somewhat upside down fashion. He did bring it down eventually.

Then, just last week we dealt with the agricultural estimates, and particularly with dairying. After we had disposed of the national dairy council I looked up the information concerning dairying, cold storage fruit branch and seed, feed and fertilizer branch, and dehydrating. Those four votes went through so rapidly that one of them is not recorded in Hansard at all, namely the seed, feed and fertilizer item. Then on Saturday a number of supplementary estimates went through, of which one or two were important. I did not rise from my chair, and all the civil government items went through without comment. I do not know what would have been passed, and certainly we would not be here to-day if some of us had not objected mildly. If it were so important to prorogue—

Mr. BENNETT: It was not.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My right hon. friend was quite ready for prorogation at any rate, at the indecent hour of midnight. You would think we were a lot of criminals wanting to run away from the scene of our operation.

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am glad we are in agreement; we are getting along famously.

Mr. BENNETT: Splendidly.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I would say to the minister that it was on the evening of the fourth day after the matter was brought up that we received the information, and we did not get it properly even at that time.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): In the first place, I have some information which although not of a controversial nature may be of some interest to the house in view of what was said on Saturday night concerning the rushing through of estimates. On May 26 I presented to the committee vote No. 107, asking for a certain amount of money for dairying. The vote asked was for exactly the same amount as had been asked a year ago when the present opposition were in power. The work was carried on by exactly the same staff, and practically the same work was to be provided for by the vote as had been provided in the previous year.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Is the minister referring to the year before?

Mr. VALLANCE: Yes.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The number of pages devoted to the discussion of this year's vote was a little better than one hundred. Last year the total agricultural estimates were contained in only six pages of Hansard. I give those figures merely by way of information. When the ex-Minister of Agriculture got to his feet to-day he stated that he had asked for information on the four days the dairying item was under discussion. He made certain references regarding my veracity. During this session however I have hesitated very much, having a due appreciation of my hon. friend's age—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That does not need to cut any ice; I am far younger than you think I am.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That particular vote was discussed for four days and—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I know that.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I asked my hon. friend at what page of Hansard he had first asked for the information, and he stated it was page 2139.

An hon. MEMBER: Page 2159.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): That item was not discussed on page 2139 at all.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Probably my speech is getting impaired also, but—

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The first record I can find in Hansard of the hon. gentleman asking a question is on May 28, and I brought the information down on the following day. I think this is a matter too small to be of importance. When the hon. member spoke, without any provocation whatever, but through the natural working of his mind, he said that Doctor Archibald had been