

Supply—Labour

gave one the impression that whoever was responsible for this particular piece of advertising was showing initiative.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Last night, discussing this item, I had occasion to mention that earlier this session a complaint had been registered against the manner in which some of the unemployed in certain sections of this country, notably in a particular constituency in Manitoba, were given the opportunity to take advantage of the government's limited winter work program. The particular item now before the committee, while it is not concerned with the winter work program in a formal sense is, as the minister has indicated, connected with it as being supplementary to that work. Since this matter was raised we have had no satisfactory explanation of the stories which have circulated with regard to the manner in which these jobs have been handed out in some cases. I have here a copy of the *Winnipeg Free Press* of January 12, 1959. The heading is "I Hand Out the Jobs, says Minnedosa Tory" and the article says, in part:

Walter Weir, a prominent Minnedosa Progressive Conservative, says Nicholas Mandziuk, Conservative M.P. for Marquette riding, has given him the authority to hand out winter work jobs in Riding Mountain national park.

Mr. Weir, Minnedosa florist and undertaker and Conservative campaign manager in the Minnedosa riding for the last provincial election, heads a constituency-wide organization which has processed at least 80 of the 125 men now working on winter projects in the park.

Only a handful of the workers have been referred to the park by the Brandon employment office. Work projects in the park this winter are valued at \$400,000.

If that story is true it certainly deserves some comment from the Minister of Labour or from the Minister of Finance who is now speaking on behalf of all government departments in presenting these estimates. For instance, here we have a story in the *Toronto Star* of February 19—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman; the hon. gentleman is dealing with matters which, if they have any accuracy at all—and I am not making any comment on that at the moment—relate, I take it, to jobs provided by the government. This present item has nothing to do with jobs provided by the government. It is an item designed to provide sums for publicity to ask persons outside the government entirely to provide employment during the winter season. This has nothing to do with the government's employees at all, Mr. Chairman. The hon. gentleman will have his opportunity at the proper time to raise his question. He will have his opportunity when the estimates of the Department of Labour are before the

[Mr. Fisher.]

committee of supply, but his point has no relevance at all to the present item.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister may make his argument on procedure, as he did last night, and I am prepared to make mine. I take strong issue with this attempt on the part of the Minister of Finance to abridge the discussion of items which have relevance to this particular matter.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The chairman will rule whether or not.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The item before the committee is a request for moneys to assist in the promotion of schemes designed to give work to men and women in this country, and I am now dealing with an allegation that some of the jobs made available as a result of a number of efforts, including this particular promotional scheme—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Not this scheme.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I say that abuse and discrimination which are not in the national interest have resulted. That is the gist of this complaint, and the hon. gentleman does not further the passage of this estimate by taking this narrow procedural position.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Can we have a ruling on the point of order, Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: We are not discussing or debating employment by the government itself, or the giving of government jobs. We are discussing, as mentioned in the item, the expenses of the special services branch, including expenses for the promotion of a program for combating seasonal unemployment. This has nothing to do with the normal employment practices of the government, and consequently I suggest to the hon. member for Essex East that he delay his remarks until the estimates of the Department of Labour come before the committee, at which time the raising of the matters to which he has referred would be in order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I have great confidence in your chairmanship of this committee, and I am not going to press the matter further. I take this position without in any way binding myself with regard to future action, for I find it difficult to accept this ruling.

In commenting upon your ruling I simply express regret at this time that the Minister of Finance takes the position that this is not a matter to which a reply should be given at once. Undoubtedly the reason is that the minister has not available the necessary information to make the kind of reply that should be made, information that would be