

Supply—Labour

member—indeed it would be impossible for him to rise while the vote was being counted. He rose immediately afterwards and perhaps Your Honour did not observe that.

The Chairman: I did not hear the remarks alleged to have been made and I was under the impression these were remarks made in this morning's session.

Mr. Chevrier: Oh, no.

The Chairman: As the hon. member for Bonavista-Twilligate has informed the house that the remarks have just been made, and as the hon. member for Roberval is here, I would like to hear the hon. member on that point. The hon. member for Roberval.

(Translation):

Mr. Tremblay: Mr. Chairman, could you tell me exactly what you expect of me?

The Chairman: The hon. member has no doubt heard the hon. member for Dollard rise on a question of privilege to say that the member for Roberval had made personal remarks. I would ask the hon. member for Roberval to explain in that connection.

Mr. Tremblay: Mr. Chairman, I should really not want the people concerned to be deprived of the benefits they will derive from this excellent measure introduced by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr). Consequently, so as not to delay the proceedings of the house, I will just say that the hon. member who has risen on a question of privilege is most sensitive indeed and that he seems to be overimpressed by facts. However, if there was something offending for the hon. member during the verbal exchange which you did not hear, I am willing to withdraw what I said. Of course, that changes nothing in the situation.

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Chairman, I ask the hon. member for Roberval to withdraw his words without reservation. I have been in the house for the last nine years, and never, until now, have I heard a member speak thus of one of his colleagues, on whatever side of the house he was on. I would ask you, sir, to invite the hon. member for Roberval to withdraw his words without reservation, because the statement he made about me is completely false.

The Chairman: If I rightly understood, the hon. member for Roberval stated that if his words were of an offensive nature, he was withdrawing them.

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Roberval said that this would in no way alter the situation, and I do not think that this is the right way to withdraw one's remarks.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Tremblay: Mr. Chairman, in order to close this discussion, I want to say that I make no reservation with regard to facts.

(Text):

Item agreed to.

Unemployment insurance commission—

669. To authorize the Minister of Finance, notwithstanding the Unemployment Insurance Act, to credit to the unemployment insurance fund in the fiscal year 1962-63 sums not exceeding in the aggregate \$25,000,000 on such terms and conditions as the governor in council determines, \$25,000,000.

The Chairman: Shall vote 669 carry?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir. Surely the minister is going to make a statement.

Mr. Starr: This item of \$25,000,000 represents a loan to the unemployment insurance fund which will be taken up only in case of necessity between the end of May, when payments are at the accumulated peak, and the beginning of June when contributions once again begin to overtake payments. The officials of the unemployment insurance commission inform me that if economic conditions continue as they have for the past three months the fund will carry us over the critical period of the month of May.

However, this would not provide a safety margin in the event, for example, of heavy layoffs in some part of the country or, to take another example, the possibility of some regional unemployment arising from the effects of a labour dispute. Neither of these possibilities is envisaged at the present time. Nevertheless the officials feel it is wise to provide for such contingencies in order that no possibility may arise of a delay in payment of benefits for those who are entitled to have them.

At the end of January the balance in the fund was \$135,877,305. The outgo from the fund for the payment of benefits is at the present time 17 per cent less than last year—another indication of the general economic improvement. The amount requested here in the form of a loan is, therefore, more in the nature of a safety measure to carry us over a critical period. If the money is not required, it will not be touched.

Mr. McMillan: I do not think the minister told us what is the actual condition of the fund at the present time. He said the outgo from the fund was 17 per cent less than last year but he did not say by how much it exceeded income.

For a considerable time the advisory committee of the unemployment insurance fund has been making reports to the government. Ever since 1959 the government could not help but be aware that this fund was being rapidly depleted and would soon become