

*Supply—Labour*

**Mr. Starr:** No, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what studies are being carried out in the United States in that field.

**Mr. Peters:** I think some consideration should be given to the matter of having the same type of organization in two departments of the government. I am satisfied that the minister has probably examined the matter in terms of unemployment figures because he has had a great deal to do with them in the last two years. However, a large proportion of the figures coming from the research branch of the Department of Labour appear to be only a re-hash of figures compiled by the dominion bureau of statistics. Sometimes they are put together in a different way. Sometimes they are divided by zones or in various other ways. They are issued in various publications and this seems to be a duplication of services which I do not think is necessary.

Having been in the labour field for a number of years and interested in the research done by the Department of Labour, I have found that most of the material published is not suitable for use in the field. Most of it can be found in a much more up to date form by reading the newspapers and gathering the information there rather than from the Department of Labour.

There are also a number of other publications that I think serve very little purpose. One of them issued by the Department of Labour was entitled, "Two Minutes of Facts" or two minutes of something. It was very poorly received by the workers. Possibly management liked it better but it was poorly received by the workers in the industries with which I have been connected. It seemed to serve very little purpose except that of keeping somebody in a job.

I think a look must be taken at the work of this branch in view of the charges that have been made, with which I am sure everybody is familiar, that it was set up by a former cabinet minister for the specific purpose of keeping track of another department in which he was interested. The hon. member for Essex East is probably quite familiar with this story.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** No, I am not. I was wondering about it.

**Mr. Peters:** Well, it is a widely circulated charge and I think the government should give some consideration to an examination of whether this department did serve the function of keeping track of another department and, if it did, whether it was worth while to do so.

Many of the publications of the research branch are pretty much a waste of money

[Mr. Carter.]

and the time of those who have to read them. A good proportion of the figures do not seem to serve much purpose. They are out of date when they are received and in the main they are taken from some place else. The staff is not sufficiently large to accumulate these figures and evaluate them.

I think that the research department could serve many functions. The minister has outlined the work that it is doing but there are a great number of things that it is not doing. One of them really does not involve automation but concerns the situation where one industry has disappeared and is not being replaced by other industries. I am thinking particularly of mining where communities have been developed which are dependent on one particular industry. The industry then faces extinction through loss of markets or depletion of ores. No assistance is being given to the workers or employers or the communities generally to help to establish industries that are suitable to the particular geographical area. I think this matter should be a part of the problems of the Department of Labour.

I would refer particularly to pulpwood and logging operations affecting areas such as Kapuskasing, Cochrane and Timmins. These are areas where large year-round labour forces used to be maintained but now the numbers of workers are very small. No assistance has been given to aid in the establishment of new industries or the development through research of something that will replace them so that large numbers of men will continue to be employed.

In some cases technical changes are eliminating work forces and in others the need for certain products is passing. Therefore the employment picture is not the same as it was previously. I think the Department of Labour could do some research in this field, not research with regard to whether people like to use left-handed shovels or right-handed shovels but with regard to whether or not they are going to be able to use a shovel at all.

There is a new trend of workers being unemployed in large numbers over long periods of time with little likelihood of their being re-employed in the same kind of work they were doing a few years ago. I refer to the pulp and paper industry again because for three or four years now we have seen the employment figures dropping. Yet everybody is aware of the fact that as much pulp and paper are being used and that sales of these commodities have not varied very greatly in our export markets. Nevertheless the labour force has decreased very rapidly and the workers do not appear to be coming