

Correspondence on Surcharges

statistics figures because, while they are not always completely accurate, they are the best set of figures we have available. Certainly they are the most uniform and they are considered by many to be exact. I think it is interesting to look at those figures. If you will do so, Mr. Chairman, you will note at page 738 of this year's Canada Year Book, 1961, that while the figures do not go back to 1941, they begin in 1951. Using a base of 100 for 1949, we find that over the years the situation was this. In 1951 the figure for employment in industry in the province of Saskatchewan was 106, and in 1952 it was 111.

It went up in 1956 to 121, in 1958 to 126, in 1959 to 130, in 1960 it was 126. In 1961 where the figures are not complete for the dominion bureau of statistics they can be found in the statistical review. The figure for that year is 123. It has never been our contention that Saskatchewan was the largest industrial province in the country. However, I think that many of the statements which have been made and which are not backed up by facts should not be made at all.

In this regard it is interesting to note that while Canada and Saskatchewan started at 100 in the base year 1949, in 1958 the figure for industrial workers across Canada was 117.9 and in Saskatchewan the increase had been to 126. This means that the Saskatchewan average had gone up considerably more than had the national average; and in 1959 the figure had increased to 130 as opposed to 119 for all of Canada. In 1960 the figure was 126 for Saskatchewan as opposed to 118 for all of Canada. This means there was a 26 point increase in industrial employment in the province of Saskatchewan against a national increase of 18 points.

Mr. Byrne: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman. If the hon. member will refer to *Hansard*, I think he will find that what I said was with reference to manufacturing. It was the manufacturing industry which the socialist government had proclaimed their intention of increasing over all other aspects of the economy. This was the manufacturing industry.

Mr. Peters: We now know exactly where the hon. member obtained the information. This was a publication put out by the *Globe and Mail* quoting a gentleman by the name of Mr. Stevenson. Obviously what I said previously is perfectly true, namely that Mr. Thatcher is still trying to write the labour policy of the Liberal party nationally as well as in Saskatchewan. What the hon. member says in fact is true. Manufacturing employment in Saskatchewan dropped as it did all

[Mr. Peters.]

across Canada and the percentage in Saskatchewan in that field was lower and the loss was less than it was on the national average across Canada.

An hon. Member: Cheap politics.

Mr. Peters: It may be cheap politics, but I think it is dishonest politics. If the Liberal party are going to develop a labour policy that is going to be acceptable, it will be necessary for them to use much more up to date and much more truthful figures than those which they may receive from the leader of the party in the province of Saskatchewan.

This piece of legislation is very interesting and warrants a great deal of thought and consideration, partly because it is very ambiguous and looks as though it covers a great number of fields. Also to be considered is the fact that if anyone would care to look at the order paper, he will find there three items, namely item No. 27, item No. 30 and item No. 31. I would suggest that the government should sit down and seriously consider rewriting a new program for labour and industry in this country and should include in it those resolutions, as well as the productivity council, one or two other proposals made to the government in the last year or so. It seems to me that this should not be piecemeal legislation but rather should be an over-all program for the development of industry and the employment of the labour force in Canada, so that the most effective use will be obtained from one of our most valuable resources, namely our labour force and the production of that labour force.

We notice that one of the resolutions mentions the Atlantic development board which has as its justification reasons similar to those which are being used or given for this resolution. I think the same speeches in many cases could be applied to this piece of legislation. However, it is restricted to a particular area. Hence we have another resolution establishing a national economic development board which will apply to the national scene that which we have given to a regional area under a regional board. I suggest that we should examine the whole approach to the development of labour, the redistribution of industry and in some cases the redirection of our industrial development in this country.

I was very much interested in the remarks made by the minister in which he talked about the co-operation by labour and by management necessary for the redistribution of industry. I think this is a worth while principle. These two agencies must work towards a common goal. They must both put the best of their abilities together in order