

*Supply—Labour*

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Before the Minister of Labour replies, perhaps I could offer an argument that is clearly within the rules at this time.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** How would you know?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** My hon. friend says "How would you know?" I suppose I would know for reasons that would be different from those which the hon. gentleman would entertain on the same point.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** You have been wrong three times on the rules this afternoon so far, but I will concede that you admitted that you were wrong.

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Oh, the hon. member for Saint John-Albert, when he is caught, is usually generous. He is caught now, and he acknowledges that the fault is not all one-sided. What I rose to say, Mr. Chairman, was that if my friend the hon. member for—what is the name of that riding in which all these people are out of work?

**Mr. Pallett:** You are referring to the banner county of Peel?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Yes; the riding of Peel, which has the Avro plant. I knew that something struck me forcefully when I looked at my hon. friend. What I was going to say was that if he was in order, as I think he was, in calling my attention to citation 324 a moment ago, I am sure he will agree with the argument I am now going to make. We will be dealing later on in the estimates with item No. 172, which has to do with the unemployment insurance commission and also with (S) under that number which has to do with the government's contribution to the unemployment insurance fund.

I was not fully appreciative of the observation made by my friend the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate a few moments ago, when he said "It will be useful before this committee". I am grateful to him for mentioning this point. The minutes asked for by the hon. member for Hull will be of concern and interest to this committee when it comes to deal with these items. I would ask the Minister of Labour if he does not think he would facilitate the passage of his estimates if he acceded to a request which he is prepared to fulfil in a few days.

We have a right to ask for this information. It is germane to the discussion under item No. 172. I put the request to the minister again and ask him to table these minutes. If the minister refuses one will be obliged to draw the conclusion that the minister, for some reason or another, does not wish to

[The Chairman.]

have disclosed to this committee and to the country the nature of those minutes.

**The Chairman:** Shall the resolution carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** No, Mr. Chairman.

(Translation):

**Mr. Caron:** Mr. Chairman, I shall put my question in a different way, in keeping with section 34 of the standing orders. Since the minister seems reluctant to table the minutes concerned unless we introduce a special motion to that effect, I would ask him to consider sending the report of the minutes concerned to the chairman of the committee on industrial relations, so that we can refer to them when needed.

Would the minister agree to that request?

Does the minister's silence imply refusal?

(Text):

**Mr. Pallett:** This is an improper request.

**Mr. Caron:** I have a right to know whether or not the minister wants to do it. That is the right of any hon. member. I am asking the minister whether his silence is a refusal to produce these minutes.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know how many times the hon. member needs to be told of the procedure to follow in this respect.

**Mr. Caron:** I am asking another question. Is it or is it not a refusal? Am I to get a straight answer? I am asking that straight question.

**The Chairman:** Order. It is rather against the rules for the minister to answer this question. I cannot demand that the minister answer the latter question of the hon. member for Hull. The minister suggested that the regular procedure be followed in this instance. I do not believe I can permit the hon. member for Hull to demand of the Minister of Labour that he answer the last question he asked.

**Mr. Caron:** I will not continue on this subject, Mr. Chairman. I will just accept as a refusal the silence of the minister.

**The Chairman:** Shall vote 163 carry?

**Mr. Pearson:** No, Mr. Chairman. The other day when we were discussing this item the suggestion was made—and I think it was not unreasonable—that in view of the employment situation at the present time perhaps this item, after we have concluded our discussion of it now, might be permitted to stand so that at the end of the session it could be brought forward again in the light of the unemployment or employment situation at that time and we could, under this item, hear from the minister what steps, if any, the government have taken in the