

Courtaulds was \$1.05, in Canadian Cottons it was 78·25, and so on; and then, he makes the statement, "that in the unorganized sections the rates are well below the average". Can you tell me in the province of Quebec what would be the average wages paid in some of the smaller companies which you have not yet organized?

Mr. LESAGE: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman; what is the question?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Repeat your question, please, Mr. Thatcher.

Mr. THATCHER: I think the witness heard it.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Members of the committee have a right to hear it too.

Mr. THATCHER: What were the average wages you found in some of these small factories in Quebec when you went to organize them?

Mr. LESAGE: That is out of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THATCHER: Why?

Mr. LESAGE: It is not relevant.

Mr. THATCHER: I asked the same question yesterday when the representative of the Catholic Syndicate was here and he told us what he found. I do not know what the Liberal members are so touchy about.

Mr. LESAGE: You stick to Saskatchewan and leave Quebec alone.

Mr. THATCHER: Why should I leave Quebec alone, isn't this one country?

Mr. LESAGE: The C.C.F. are not in the province of Quebec and we do not want them.

Mr. THATCHER: But Mr. Duplessis is.

Mr. LESAGE: We don't want any C.C.F.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen. I think Mr. Thatcher's question is in order.

Mr. THATCHER: Thank you.

The WITNESS: On the average I would say in the unorganized plants we have in Quebec that wages on the average would be at least 10 cents per hour less than in the organized plants, on the average. I have seen some plants that have averaged 45 cents an hour against an over-all average in the industry of 70 cents an hour.

Mr. THATCHER: I understand the minimum wage in Quebec is 24 cents an hour. I believe the witness yesterday said that. Did you find many employees in companies with which you came in contact in the province of Quebec who were getting anywhere near as low as that?

The WITNESS: In any organized plant there is no wage lower than 50 cents an hour.

Mr. THATCHER: But how about the unorganized plants?

The WITNESS: In the unorganized plants—take, for instance, the one at St. George de Beauce—at the time I was there there were about 100 girls and they were getting the provincial minimum of 24 cents an hour.

Mr. PINARD: Don't you think you should go further and make a little further explanation of that plant? Is it not a fact that the employees there receive special treatment which would justify the payment of that wage when you consider other provisions which are made for them? Do you not think you should enlarge on that?

The WITNESS: I do not think that 24 cents an hour represents all they get in value.

Mr. PINARD: That is what I am talking about. I am asking you whether there is not a very substantial difference there. Have you any personal knowledge of that? Don't you think you should enlarge on your statement and clarify it?