

Supply—Labour

less heat is going to be generated and a lot less difficulty created in a number of rooms in this House of Commons if these minutes are produced in this fashion, rather than forcing hon. members to reconstruct what took place at these meetings by interviewing the people who took part in them.

I think the minister should give some consideration to this procedure, unless there is something specific in those minutes which the government does not want published. The minutes could be presented, and this would expedite the consideration of the estimates of the minister's department.

(*Translation*):

Mr. Caron: Mr. Chairman, I want to revert to that question, but in French this time, because I am more at ease in French. We submit this is a question of paramount importance and, if the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) was willing to co-operate a bit, the debate would be much shorter. In fact I am convinced that even in some committees the debates would also be shortened if there was willingness to give opposition members the co-operation which is required at times. However, I realize that the present position of the minister seems to be a by-product of the government's definite policy of unwillingness to provide the opposition with the material they need to perform their assigned task. By the same token, the people of Canada are being denied information they are entitled to have. And why are they being so denied? Merely for the pleasure of thwarting those who are in the minority.

As was mentioned by the previous speaker, representatives of various organizations seem to be aware of all that went on at the sittings of that committee. Moreover, they seem to be informed of all the minutes which were passed; the members of this house are the only ones who are not, and they cannot obtain the facts. To that effect, the Minister of Labour suggests we should place on the order paper a notice of motion for the production of papers. Well, Mr. Chairman, it is precisely because we cannot do it for lack of time, and because we need this information immediately, that we are making our request. It is not for the mere pleasure of filibustering, since I believe that at the present time any filibustering is being instigated by the government, more particularly so by the Minister of Labour.

We want to obtain this information so as to get a better grasp of the facts, and to discuss intelligently the subject matters which are deferred to the industrial relations committee. Whenever that matter comes up,

at meetings of the committee on industrial relations or anywhere else, the answer is always the same: the Speaker of the house has ruled such and such, and even then the actual ruling is not reported, so that on the basis of misconstrued rulings, we are again denied access to necessary material.

(*Text*):

Mr. Pallett: The hon. member is again directing his thoughts, as was the hon. member for Essex East, to matters that are not—

Mr. Caron: Mr. Chairman, I was not speaking of the committee. I said that in certain committees the members are refused the material they need. I was not referring to one committee in particular, and this I have a right to do because I am not discussing matters which are being considered by one committee. I think it is the policy of the government—

Mr. Pallett: I assume, then, from what the hon. member is saying that he is not making reference to any matters that are before any of the committees that are sitting now or which have been sitting in the last few days?

Mr. Caron: I was speaking of a general attitude on the part of government members in the house and in the committees.

The Chairman: Order. First of all I must apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but I believe that as chairman I should make a few remarks at this stage on this particular item. Requests have been repeatedly made, and the reasons for those requests set forth during the last half hour, for the tabling of the minutes of a certain meeting which took place on August 26, 1958, I believe. The Minister of Labour has made a suggestion that a motion be put before the house in the normal fashion for the tabling of these papers. Hon. members have sought to expedite matters by requesting that the minutes be tabled immediately.

I must in all sincerity confess that you have put your chairman in a dilemma at this time. On the one hand I must advise hon. members on my left that a repetition of the same argument for the tabling of these minutes does not conform with standing order 34 (2), which deals with repetition. On the other hand the minister has made a suggestion concerning the tabling of these minutes. If the Minister of Labour persists in his decision, and if hon. members opposite persist in repeating the same arguments, I shall have to ask the committee to pass on to another item. It would be appreciated if an answer could be given to these requests, and it would certainly facilitate the task of the chairman.