

replied to this letter he furnished the officers of the union with a copy of his letter so they could give it to me. Therefore everybody knows what is going on and it is all quite clear.

An hon. Member: Confusion compounded.

Mr. Knowles: However, Mr. Chairman, the significance of the correspondence is that the members of the Ottawa typographical union feel that some statements made the other night by the hon. member for Temiscouata should be corrected. The officers of the union drew those statements to the attention of the member in their letter to him, and they have asked me to make sure that the corrections are made on the floor of the house in view of the fact that these errors appear in *Hansard*. There are in the main three points that the hon. member for Temiscouata sought to make on October 30 which the members of the Ottawa typographical union feel should be corrected.

In the first place the hon. member and I were in dispute over the question as to whether or not wages paid at the printing bureau correspond to the wages paid in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, as set out, in a way, in the Public Printing and Stationery Act. I made the statement that wages at the bureau did not equal wages at Montreal and Toronto. The hon. member for Temiscouata said they did. That is the kind of argument that surely can be settled by getting the facts of the situation.

The fact is that the hourly wage being paid at the present time at the bureau for day work does seem to be the same as the wage being paid for day work in job shops in the city of Montreal, namely, \$1.65 an hour, but there is this very striking difference. In job shops in the city of Montreal this scale, which by the way is a minimum scale, is for a forty hour week. The first three hours after forty hours are paid for at time and a half, and all time after forty-three hours is paid for at double time. At the printing bureau the \$1.65 applies for forty-four hours, and the men employed at the printing bureau work a forty-four hour week. Therefore there is a very definite difference in the actual take-home pay for the same amount of work as between the bureau and job shops in Montreal.

I emphasize the fact that it is a minimum scale in Montreal, and that plenty of printers there make more than that. The scale in Toronto even for a forty hour week is higher at the present time than the \$1.65 being paid at the bureau. It has been \$1.67½. In the case of both of these cities negotiations are under way at the present time for

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increases. The officers of the union drew this to the attention of the hon. member for Temiscouata by pointing out that at the present time the rate of wages in Montreal has expired under the contract between the printers and the employers and that negotiations are in progress, with the employees asking for a figure higher than \$2 an hour. The Toronto printing employees have already refused to accept an offer of \$1.87 per hour, and the matter is in the hands of a board of conciliation. I could go further, but I think that is sufficient to prove the statement I made in the course of the debate the other night, that the wages being received by the employees of the printing bureau are less than the wages being received by the printers in job shops in the cities of Toronto and Montreal. Some of us who know a little bit about the work of printers feel it is not fair to compare the work of the bureau, especially when they are producing *Hansard* for us, to the work in a job printing shop. It is much closer to the work in a newspaper shop, where the rates are considerably higher than the wages I have quoted.

So far as the rates in the shops in Ottawa are concerned, in some cases they are at the level paid at the bureau, and in some cases they are lower. The difficulty encountered there is that, although the Public Printing and Stationery Act says the bureau rates are supposed to correspond to the rates in those three cities, the private employers in the city of Ottawa keep suggesting to the union that they have a right to be governed by the wages at the bureau. So the men are caught in what they feel is a vicious circle, and any increases they do get are always six months to a year behind.

That is one of the points the members of the union, speaking for the union itself and for most if not all of the employees at the bureau, felt should be corrected. They wanted it to be known that the fact of the matter is the wages paid at the bureau are not up to the wages paid in the two cities, Montreal and Toronto. Further, they are considerably less than what is likely to be paid in a very short period of time in both of these cities.

The second point the members of the union felt should be corrected is the statement made by the hon. member for Temiscouata to the effect that the Public Printing and Stationery Act fixes the wages to be paid at the bureau. Along with the letter to the hon. member they include copies of correspondence the union has had with Mr. R. B. Bryce of the treasury board, and certain other documents, to prove their point that the fact is as stated in the Public Printing and Stationery Act, namely that the wages are not fixed by statute,