

Supply—Labour

Mr. Chevrier: He has not yet. The hon. member is looking it up. Your Honour has ruled on the matter before the hon. member has given the source of the information. I think Your Honour should at least wait until the source is given before a ruling is made.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Chairman, I have just repeated today figures which I gave in the house earlier this session at which time the reference was not asked for. I thought I had mentioned the exact page reference at that time. If hon. members can contain themselves I will be only too happy to provide them with the exact page number later. Again I say that—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I am willing to give the hon. member an opportunity to present to the house at the earliest possible moment the source of this information but it must be documented. He must refer to the document and he must give us the page.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This is important.

Mr. Starr: You quoted today out of your head.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The hon. gentleman is quoting statistics—

Mr. Starr: You quoted all your figures out of your head.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The only contribution the Minister of Labour has made so far is to sit in his chair instead of rising and meeting the challenges from all fronts.

Some hon. Members: Order.

An hon. Member: Sit down, Paul.

Mr. Starr: There is no difference.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is the contribution of the Minister of Labour to unemployment.

Mr. Starr: This is the first time you have been speaking since 1935.

The Chairman: I take it it is all very well for the hon. member to ask the member who has the floor the source of his information. In a case like that I would say he has to be satisfied with the information he obtains. This is not the same as the case to which the hon. member for Laurier has referred. If a member quotes from a newspaper or a book, he must be prepared to lay that on the table.

Mr. Chevrier: That is what he is doing.

The Chairman: However, if the hon. member who is speaking gives a figure or enunciates a fact, he is not obliged to give more

[Mr. Chevrier.]

than his source of reference. If someone says, from memory, the proportion of unemployment was so much on a certain date or if he says I obtained this information from such a source, I think the hon. member should be satisfied with that statement. If an hon. member says, I am quoting from a book or from a report, the rule is that he has to lay the document on the table, but I would not go farther than with the hon. member for Essex East.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, this is an important point of order. Are you ruling now that if a member of this house quotes official statistics, a table of official statistics, he only has to identify those statistics by saying they are from this or that department, without any further identification?

Mr. Nowlan: This is a rather novel suggestion, that an hon. member who stands up and quotes from government statistics is required to produce the page, date and everything else. This shows how afraid our hon. friends opposite are about having a reply made to the misleading statements made in this debate. I would hope that you could rule the hon. member in order and give him a few moments to reply to some of the wrong statements which have been made.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order, I do not think the Minister of National Revenue should be allowed—

Mr. Pallett: You are afraid of the reply.

Mr. Chevrier:—we have not got to take that interruption from the Minister of National Revenue about false statements.

The Chairman: Order. I cannot entertain more than one point of order at the same time. I thought the hon. member was rising on the previous point of order. I cannot entertain more than one.

Mr. Pearson: On the ruling you have just made, Mr. Chairman, I take it if we on this side use statistics, any kind of statistics, and we are challenged—usually by the Minister of Finance—to identify those statistics, give the page and give the reference, we do not have to do so?

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. MacInnis: I may tell these hon. gentlemen all they are required to do is to make a phone call to the D.B.S., and they can get the information.

The Chairman: The Leader of the Opposition has referred to a minister of the crown quoting from a document. The reference given by the hon. member for Laurier, of course, would be a guide in this matter. He