

*Supply—Labour*

**Mr. Pallett:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who is on his feet at the present time is an experienced member of the house, and he knows there can be no reference in the house to proceedings that take place in a committee until the report of the committee is before the house. I just wanted to draw that to his attention, because it appeared that his remarks were tending in a direction in which perhaps he did not realize he was going.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I know of no such rule which precludes a member, having been denied in the committee—

**Mr. Pallett:** Mr. Chairman, on the point of order—

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Let me finish my reply.

**Mr. Pallett:** —if the hon. member knows of no such rule I would refer him and you, Mr. Chairman, to Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Forms*, fourth edition, page 251, citation 324, which reads as follows:

(1) Until the report and evidence have been laid upon the table, it is irregular to refer to them in debate, or to put questions in reference to the proceedings of the committee.

(2) When the evidence is before the house it may be debated at length, but members will not be permitted to discuss the conduct or language of members of the committee, except so far as it appears on the record.

(3) If a document has been formally laid before a committee of the house, and entered upon its minutes, it is in the possession of the house, and it is a breach of privilege for any person or department to withhold it.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** What citation is that?

**Mr. Pallett:** It is citation 324, page 251.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Chairman, I am not going to argue the point. On reflection I think there is some merit, but only some, in the observations of my hon. friend. But having suggested what I have in my mind by merely a few words at the beginning of a new sentence, I am sure the Minister of Labour knows perfectly well what the situation is. The minister has said that he is prepared to give consideration to the request if it is made by way of a motion for the production of papers. If my hon. friend insists on relying on that procedure nothing can be done about it, but I would point out to him that it would be of great assistance while we are engaged otherwise outside of this house—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Or even in this committee.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Then I will say "outside of this particular chamber" in an [Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

effort to satisfy my colleague the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think the hon. gentleman did not understand my point. I was suggesting that it would be a great help right here in this committee.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** As usual the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is right. It would also help us in this committee. The Minister of Labour has these minutes readily available, and can produce and table them today so they can be used by this committee, or he can go through the other procedure which will involve some delay. I am sure that his winning ways would be helpful if he would only give some recognition to the reasonable request so mildly put forward by my colleague the hon. member for Hull.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to echo this request, because submissions by a number of organizations concerning the meetings covered by these minutes have come to our attention. Because other organizations have made reference to meetings that were held, and specific dates and resolutions, I think these minutes should be produced. I feel that a great deal could be gained by the production of these minutes now rather than going through the long and tortuous method that would have to be followed to obtain the information contained in them from the people who took part in these meetings. The minutes themselves would give us the information we desire more expeditiously and with a great deal less heat than is going to be generated if these facts have to be ascertained from the people who took part in the meetings.

A great many of these people are now sending us briefs, and whether or not they know all the answers they certainly know what was said at these meetings. They know what is in the minutes of these meetings. I think a great deal of hardship is being imposed upon the members of this committee by the failure to produce these minutes. It seems that everyone except the members of parliament knows exactly what is in them. I do not believe it is going to be any more advantageous to us to have to ask a number of outside people what the minutes contain, and I think the Minister of Labour will expedite the business of the committee by producing these minutes.

It is probably quite true that the minutes do not have to be produced. However, I believe that on previous occasions the minister has done things he was not compelled to do; he has been very lenient in connection with other matters. This is a case in which