

should be produced. If we proceed on that basis we will carry out the true intent of the motion and of this debate.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, the documents that have been requested are the minutes of the meetings of the productivity council. If the minutes had been made in a general way, simply giving the conclusions and the general discussion that went on at these meetings, there would be no reluctance whatsoever on the part of the government to producing them, because the government is very pleased with and proud of the deliberations and the work carried out by these very distinguished people who have been good enough to agree to sit on this council and do this very important work. But I do object to producing these minutes because they specify which of the members of the council voiced certain definite opinions.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit me to ask him a factual question, which might speed up this whole matter?

Mr. Hees: Certainly.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister say whether in fact these minutes are a stenographic report of the meetings? We have in the house a stenographic report called *Hansard*, and we also have minutes, the *Votes and Proceedings*. I conceive that what the hon. member for Skeena is asking for is something like our *Votes and Proceedings*. Could the minister say whether or not the minutes are a stenographic report?

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has made a useful contribution, because if what is required are the general conclusions and the general discussion which took place at any of these meetings, I will be very glad to have that material produced. What I think is completely unfair, and would be damaging to parliament and to the service people of this calibre perform for parliament and for the country, would be to have the verbatim report of what Mr. So-and-so said, what Mr. So-and-so said in reply, what Mrs. So-and-so said, and so on—

Mr. Chevrier: What about Miss So-and-so?

Mr. Hees: —because people who come here and give their time and very considerable talents free to the government for the benefit of parliament, the government and the people in general would not, we feel, be willing to serve on bodies of this kind if each sentence they uttered at these meetings were produced for the public to examine in detail later.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question? Are there such things

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as minutes which do not indicate which people are involved? We do not want a full transcript, word for word, commas and punctuation marks, of various individuals. Minutes are a different thing; they are the result of discussion and decision. If there are such things, we will be glad to have them.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Summaries and conclusions.

Mr. Hees: Unfortunately, the way the minutes of these meetings have been taken has been in the form that Mr. So-and-so said so-and-so, and Mr. So-and-so replied and made this suggestion, and so on. But if the hon. member is willing perhaps to reword his motion and ask that a full account of the meetings be given, without the specific names of who said what at which meeting, we will be very pleased to make that available to him.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, that is agreeable. The seconder of my motion says it is acceptable to him also.

Mr. Hees: Thank you very much. Then on that basis, Mr. Speaker, could I ask that the hon. member reword his motion? If he does so in those terms, when it appears next on the order paper I will be very glad to make this information available to him.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it needs rewording. These motions are accepted many times by ministers on certain understandings and with certain reservations. I am simply saying that a resumé, or whatever it is, will be acceptable.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I will accept the motion on those terms.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think we should understand clearly, Mr. Speaker, what the amendment is that we are accepting. I agree very much with what the minister said, because I was a minister once, and I hope to be one again—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: You will.

Mr. Hees: Hope springs eternal.

Mr. Pickersgill: —and I also had the dubious advantage of once being secretary to the cabinet. I do not think we wish to have a motion passed by this house—and I am sure my hon. friend from Winnipeg South Centre who is also the leader of the house would agree with me—in language that would constitute a precedent for the production of the minutes of bodies which really, in the genuine public interest, I am sure every hon. member in all corners of the house would agree, should not be made public.