

War Appropriation—Labour

Another case I could refer to was that where forty men who had been previously employed in what might be termed an essential industry were found to be working at the ball park peddling peanuts during the summer months. Some hon. members smile at that, but the fact is that during the winter months these men were working in an essential war industry, and peddling peanuts should not have priority over a war industry.

Some machinery is needed to keep track of where these men go. We should be able to trace them and bring them back into essential industry. It would help considerably if their former employer knew where they could be found or that they could be traced. But at present they cannot be traced. At the present time when a worker in essential war industry leaves his employment he does not have to say where he is going. The employer does not know exactly where these men are going. He generally finds out that they are going to some work somewhere where they will get a few cents more an hour. The next step is that the employer appeals to the regional war labour board for permission to increase the rate of pay. Very often this entails a long delay. I have in mind a case where it took from January until May before the employer got an answer. In the meanwhile twenty men out of the hundred had found themselves other employment, and when the regional war labour board made the allowance which was decided upon these men could not be found, because there is no system whereby the national selective service organization can trace these men through. I do not say that you should compulsorily take them and haul them back into the industry they have left, but you might talk to them and point out that war industry needs them rather than some industry which is a non-essential industry, and if you are in a position to pay the wages they want they would probably come back to their previous job. I make these few observations in the hope that they will be to some extent constructive.

Mr. GRAYDON: One thing before this item passes. I propounded a number of questions to the Minister of Labour, but I am quite prepared to allow the item to pass upon the understanding that after eight o'clock the minister will answer me in full.

Mr. MITCHELL: I believe there is only one question the hon. member wanted; it was a list of the people who had resigned?

Mr. GRAYDON: I wanted a list of people who resigned; also a question came up in [Mr. J. H. Harris.]

connection with enforcement of the regulations of national selective service. I wanted to know what prosecutions had taken place and the steps which had been taken to undertake them. I believe that in my original address on this particular debate I raised a question as to the extent of the records kept by the local offices of national selective service.

Mr. MITCHELL: I should like to get away this evening. I have had a pretty tough time. May I do as was done by the Minister of National Defence for Air? I will get all the questions and give the answers to-morrow, if that is acceptable to my hon. friend.

Mr. GRAYDON: I have no objection to that. I do not want to have these questions stand over indefinitely, but if the minister desires to give this information to-morrow I shall have no objection. If, however, when he makes his answers, any supplementary information may be called for, I do not want to be debarred from making some observations.

Mr. HAZEN: Has the minister a bureau of public relations or a publicity department in his department?

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not know what the hon. member means by a "publicity department". There has always been an information bureau in the Department of Labour.

Mr. HAZEN: Will the minister let us know when it was established; what it has cost to date; how many people it employs; how many receive salaries of over \$5,000, over \$4,000, over \$3,000, and over \$2,000?

Mr. MARTIN: It is all covered by the general estimates.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member is entitled to get that information.

Mr. MARTIN: Well, we will give it to him.

Mr. HAZEN: May that information be placed on record?

Mr. MITCHELL: Absolutely. But why not put a question on the order paper?

Mr. HAZEN: Well, if we do that we will get an order for return.

Mr. MITCHELL: I will promise my hon. friend that I will answer him immediately, if he would rather have it that way.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.