

Unemployment Insurance Act

Mr. Starr: I am not losing my temper. We want facts and information, not innuendos.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This display of lack of control, this continual bellowing by the minister for vengeance—

Mr. Starr: I am trying to follow in your footsteps in that regard.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —is very disconcerting—

Mr. Starr: I know it is disconcerting to you.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —and not really in keeping with the position of a man who is a minister of the crown.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Or a former minister.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Or, as the Minister of Finance very properly says, a former minister. That is the main objection to this bill that was taken by these people. If they wanted to register their objections they certainly had the right to do so, and because they resigned from the advisory committee—

Mr. Starr: They did not resign because of that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Don't get excited.

Mr. Starr: I am trying to keep the record straight.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Because they resigned, that fact does not make them less worthy and sincere representatives of the workers of this country and their organizations.

Mr. MacInnis: It certainly does.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend has reminded me of something. A moment ago my hon. friend reminded me that the real reason for their resigning was not as I stated, but—and I thank the Minister of Labour for correcting me—was that they objected to the failure of the Minister of Labour to comply with the act in consulting labour with regard to labour representation on the unemployment insurance commission.

Mr. Starr: Labour are quite satisfied with their representation.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend says that labour is satisfied. But the large labour organizations in this country represented by Mr. Jodoin, with over one million members, have taken issue with this government and have complained about the government failure to live up to the act because the minister did not properly consult labour.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Don't lose your temper.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend says these three men Mr. George Burt of Windsor, Mr. Marchand of Les Syndicats Catholiques and Mr. Andras of the Canadian Labour Congress are not worthy representatives of labour because they have protested against the failure of this government to appoint a representative of labour pursuant to the terms of the Unemployment Insurance Act. The Minister of Labour has not yet told us what progress he has been able to make with the labour organizations in the replacement of these gentlemen or does he intend to give them the opportunity to return. I do not even know whether they want to return. I would say this to my hon. friend. Mr. George Burt has not supported me politically for a long time, but I do know that if he were returned as a member of this committee, as well as Mr. Andras and Mr. Marchand, he and they would be very competent and worthy representatives of labour.

The Minister of Labour, and I do not blame him for this, sought to establish that what he had done was based upon a precedent of 1950 or thereabouts. As I indicated the other day when these amendments were introduced, I was acting on behalf of the minister of labour who was otherwise engaged. I was not the minister of labour, but I am not ashamed of those amendments any more than I am ashamed to belong to a party which introduced an effective Unemployment Insurance Act—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —any more than I am to belong to a party which is responsible for every single act of social welfare on the statute books of our country—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —any more than I am to belong to a party which brought in family allowances—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —which brought in old age security—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —which brought in disability pensions—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —that brought in—

The Deputy Chairman: Order.