

Supply—Labour

the only thing that got them off the hook was the outbreak of world war II.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend has presented very interesting statistics. Will my hon. friend tell me where he got the figures and for what month?

Mr. MacInnis: These are for the first of June in the years 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940. I gave the reference earlier in the session. They are D.B.S. figures.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): What page in the D.B.S. publication?

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Were you a member then?

Mr. MacInnis: I must confess that my memory is probably slipping as badly as that of the hon. member for Essex East who could not even recall when he was acting minister of labour, so possibly he will excuse me for not recalling the specific page.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Under the rules of the house no hon. member can quote unless he gives the reference. The hon. member has said that these calculations were made. What is the source, what is the year and what is the page?

Mr. MacInnis: If the hon. member will give me time, I have it right here.

The Chairman: I did not get the point of order raised by the hon. gentleman. What is the hon. gentleman suggesting?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I was asking that the rules be applied.

Mr. Starr: May I interject at this point? The hon. member is quoting figures projected by D.B.S. for the month of June in all of these years. If the hon. member is interested enough to ascertain whether or not they are correct, the reference is to D.B.S. figures and all he has to do is to look it up on his own.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This only points up how inadequate the Minister of Labour is when he tries to deal with this matter in this manner. It is obvious that he is now telling the committee what the hon. member who has made the statement is now looking up. Either the Minister of Labour has prepared this speech for the hon. member and knows the reference—

Mr. Starr: He does not need any help.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—or has told him the reference. We are entitled to know the exact reference from which the hon. member is quoting.

Mr. Starr: It is D.B.S., the bureau of statistics.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): D.B.S. is not a publication.

Mr. Starr: It is an acknowledged official publication.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): D.B.S. is not a publication; D.B.S. is a division of a department.

Mr. Starr: But they officially issue the publication.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Could we merely confirm the fact that the hon. member for Essex East was a member of the government at that time and sat in the house when these figures were as high as they were?

The Chairman: Order. I think the hon. member who has the floor has indicated the source of the reference and I do not know of any rule that says that the hon. member has to give the page. It may not be satisfactory to the hon. member for Essex East but the hon. member can make his own deductions.

Mr. Chevrier: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I bring to your attention the rule on which this is based. It is citation 159 (3) of Beauchesne, 4th edition, and it reads as follows:

It has been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the house, if it can be done without injury to the public interest.

The Chairman: I am very sorry, but I do not think that reference has any application to the present case. If the hon. member says that he has taken his information from a certain publication it is not the same thing as if a document has been cited. It is not the same thing at all to me. If we were to give the interpretation that the hon. member for Laurier suggests I think nobody would be able to speak for more than 30 seconds without having to lay on the table of the house all sorts of documents and books.

Mr. Chevrier: I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, that you have misunderstood my suggestion to you and I think it would be a bad rule for the house—

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: If you want to raise a point of order it is your privilege but I am dealing with a point of order now. I think it would be a bad rule for the house if, when a document is challenged, it was not necessary to lay it on the table of the house. All the hon. member for Essex East has done is to ask where the quotation comes from and he has not yet received an answer.

An hon. Member: He did.