

Supply—Labour

The number varied from 445,000 to 550,000 last January. A great many of these people will not have received any stamps and therefore will not be receiving any benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Something must be done in this matter before next winter. I take advantage of this opportunity to ask the minister whether the time has not come when we should know what the government intends to do.

We know that unemployment is going to be severe next winter. We know something will have to be done. We know the municipalities will have to carry a very heavy load. Knowing all these things, we expect the government to be ready to present some kind of legislation to alleviate all the difficulties that will be created by this situation. Now that the minister is free I will come back to my question. Will the minister be kind enough to table this afternoon the minutes of the meeting of August 26, 1958, of the unemployment insurance advisory committee? Is the minister ready to answer?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, I advised the hon. member on the orders of the day as to the procedure to be followed in order to secure the production of any papers. There is provision for that under routine proceedings and orders of the day.

Mr. Caron: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is what the minister said, but if he had listened to me a while ago he would have known—

Mr. Starr: I heard the hon. member repeat it twice, and what I said on the orders of the day still goes.

Mr. Caron: The minister does not seem to appreciate the importance of these documents to those members who are working on the industrial relations committee. We have to sit morning and night, all the time, to try to finish the work we have to do. The only thing we are asking from the minister now is a little co-operation. If the document can be produced in a day or two by placing a motion on the order paper, it is just as easy to table it now because these reports are in the hands of the minister at the present time. The only thing we are asking is that the minister not be so fussy about the rules and regulations of the house and give us this document which we need.

Mr. Starr: The hon. member referred to reports. I filed the reports.

Mr. Caron: I am talking about the minutes of the meeting which was held on August 26, 1958.

Mr. Starr: There was no meeting held on August 26.

Mr. Caron: All right; the minister wants to be fussy about dates. He knows perfectly well what I mean. It was the last meeting held in August, 1956—I mean 1958; the minister will rise again and say that it was not 1956. We want a little bit of understanding from the minister. Up to this year we have been able to get some co-operation, but this year he seems to be completely unwilling to co-operate with the opposition. We need this document badly, and the only thing we want is for the minister to extend a little bit of co-operation.

Some members to my left are talking. If they want to rise and make speeches I will be very pleased to listen to them; otherwise, Mr. Chairman, please ask them to be quiet. If they want to speak loudly enough so I can hear them I may be able to answer them. Will the minister agree to co-operate with the members of the industrial committee—the industrial relations committee? I had better be careful not to change the words.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I think the hon. member for Hull has asked a fair question. I believe the minister, who is a fair-minded man, will accede to this request. He will remember that when we were discussing the unemployment insurance amendments the other night he tabled of his own volition certain reports that had been prepared by the advisory committee under the former administration.

Mr. Graffey: Are you sure he did it of his own volition?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I should like to know what my profound, experienced and hon. friend has in mind.

Mr. Graffey: I merely asked the hon. member if he is sure the minister did it of his own volition.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, the Minister of Labour did it of his own volition. There was one report he tabled after I had asked about its existence, but the other reports I am referring to were tabled by the minister voluntarily without any suggestion from this side of the house. After he tabled those reports I had the opportunity of examining them, and I found attached the minutes of at least one meeting. The dates of the meeting in question are confusing because at the top of the report it says "Ottawa, August 26, 1958" and later on in the body of the report it refers to a series of committee meetings that were convened on August 19. It is with regard to the minutes of these meetings that the member for Hull has asked the minister. The basis for the request by the hon. member for Hull is that this morning in the industrial relations committee—