

Inquiries of the Ministry

it is a fact that the hon. member did move a motion to have the correspondence between myself and the president of Quebecair—

Mr. Chevrier: And others.

Mr. Balcer:—and others tabled. Everything I have in my office that is not of a personal and confidential nature has been produced. I myself have investigated everything I have in my office, and if anything else is still in my possession it is because it is private and confidential. So far as the other agencies are concerned, including the air transport board, I shall be very pleased to investigate further, but I know my office and the officials of the department have made a very extensive study of the matter and have gone through all the files. I regret if I have a document which does not appear there, but I can assure the house that everything not of a personal and confidential nature has been tabled.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member who feels the order of the house has not been sufficiently complied with would inform the minister of the specific documents which he says have not been produced. Then if he is not satisfied there is provision under our rules for a debatable motion to produce documents. This procedure gives a remedy for that matter which the hon. member for Laurier now raises.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**REPORTED REDUCTION IN RATE OF INCREASE OF LABOUR FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour based on today's release of the unemployment figures, which show that 583,000 Canadians are out of work—an alarming situation, of course. In the light of the labour force statistics given by the Department of Labour today, has the minister any explanation to offer for the fact that the Canadian labour force between February, 1962 and February, 1961 increased at less than half the rate of previous years?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in answer to this question I want to bring to the hon. member's attention the report of the Senate committee on manpower, which recommended that in the next five years a million jobs would have to be provided. In this release we find that 196,000 new jobs have been provided throughout the year, so that by the month of February we have attained the number of new jobs required to reach that figure of 1 million jobs in five years.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister had declined to answer my question, would he explain why it is that for every 100 Canadians at work, 10 are unemployed?

Mr. Hees: Now, now; don't choke.

Mr. Walker: That is a lie.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Minister of Public Works has said that is a lie.

Mr. Walker: And it is a lie.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Minister of Public Works has asserted that what I said is a lie. I say it is a true statement based on an examination of the minister's figures, and I ask the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. If, as the hon. member asserts, such a statement was made I am sure the Minister of Labour would be the first one to correct it.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, it was the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Starr: The percentage of those unemployed in the labour force is 9.1, so it is not one out of every ten.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the Minister of Public Works would wish to rise and deal with the accusation which has been made. Personally I did not hear what was said, but an hon. member in the house has accused the hon. member for Essex East of making an untrue statement, which would be contrary to good parliamentary practice.

Mr. Walker: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to do that.

Mr. Pickersgill: To do what?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are not impressed by this evasion by the Minister of Public Works. He accused me of having told a lie in this house. Under our rules the hon. gentleman has the obligation of withdrawing this remark. You have asked him to do so. I would ask that he obey your ruling.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister of Labour's explanation obviously the hon. member for Essex East has made a statement which is untrue. If the appellation by which I described his statement offends the house, I will be very happy to withdraw it.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That's better.

REPORTED WEST GERMAN RECRUITING PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right