

while, on top of all that I already mentioned about the production of statistics, they instruct the 800 investigators who are on the road for a week a month to visit rural districts where there are fewer unemployed, because a farmer who works on his farm in the winter is not unemployed? And in the summer, they take a sample of the unemployed in the cities.

In winter, the Federal Bureau of Statistics orders a census taken in rural areas, where there is no unemployment, and in summer, where unemployment is less intense, that is in the cities. I resume my quotation:

Mr. Speaker, let us establish statistics now with statistics. For instance, the 800 persons taking the monthly census each represent about 6,500 households, because there were 5,180,473 households in Canada in 1966.

How is it that the province of Newfoundland has 71 census takers while it has only about 96,632 households? Therefore, there are about five times too many investigators in Newfoundland since they should be 14 and not 71. Are those statistics serious? With such random statistics it is no wonder that the government is all the time probing and searching. The governments are very well represented by such bad statistics. Our statistics are a joke when we know the way they are made up . . .

Since Prince Edward Island comprises 25,360 households, it should have four investigators instead of nine, so there are five too many.

Nova Scotia, with 185,245 households, should be entitled to about 29 investigators. It has 54,25 too many. New Brunswick has 141,761 households and is entitled to 21 investigators. There are 43,22 too many or twice as many as it should have.

The province of Quebec with 1,389,115—

—in 1969—

—households would qualify for 214 investigators, but since it has only 153 it is short 60.

Ontario has 1,876,545 households, should have 289 investigators, has only 201, therefore it is short 87 if ratios should be taken into account to get accurate figures. Manitoba has 259,280 households and would be entitled to 40 investigators but has 47, that is 7 too many.

We find the best balance in the province of British Columbia. And I quote:

British Columbia had 543,075 households in 1966 and while it was entitled to 84 investigators, it had only 81. Therefore, it was short three. However, it is still in British Columbia that the best balance is achieved as concerns investigators.

Mr. Chairman, if I delve into the matter even further, I find that figures are discussed which mean absolutely nothing even within the provinces themselves. I continue the quotation:

And if I should pursue a little further my examination of statistics for the province of Quebec, especially those concerning unemployment in the city of Montreal, there, again, I will discover most interesting facts. For instance, in nine constituencies of the city of Montreal where unemployment is high, there are ten investigators. The constituencies of Hochelaga, Lachine, Bourassa, Laval, Saint-Denis and Saint-Jacques each have one;

It is a very simple matter: Statistics Canada applies the same policy at the provincial as at the federal level, that is, investigators are not sent out when there is unemployment, but are when there is no unemployment! In the Montreal ridings, when there is unemployment, there are no investigators, but in those ridings where there is some, there are investigators. And after that, we see hon. members in this House maintain their points stubbornly, quoting figures that are totally erroneous, meaningless. Now, to go back to the quotation:

All statistics on unemployment are the result, as I explained

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earlier, of a heap of figures established in a non scientific way, that the government may change when they see fit by ordering inquiries in sectors or areas suitable for hiring, so as to better disguise unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, the government, and unfortunately the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde), were going to base themselves on the consumer price index, on figures arrived at by Statistics Canada which are not and will not be any more serious than present labour force figures.

Mr. Chairman, I should also like to add that this proves that the government has not found the solution to the problems of inflation, any more than it has found that to the problems of old age pensions in Canada by maintaining them at the level—

● (1550)

[*English*]

The Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him expired some minutes ago. I did, however, want him to be able to complete his argument with regard to the compilation of statistics. It is, of course, within the power of the committee to grant to the hon. member extra time as he enters into a new part of his argument. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Chairman, in concluding I move, seconded by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte):

That in clause 1, the words "Statistics Canada" be replaced by the words "a scientific private body of statistics".

[*English*]

The Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for Shefford has sent the Chair a motion to the effect that Statistics Canada be replaced by a scientific board of statistics. The Chair has some question concerning the receivability of the amendment and is prepared to hear argument on the point at this time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Chairman, in support of the motion moved by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau), I should like to point out that in the committee of the whole, members have the privilege to move amendments to a bill.

Mr. Chairman, without referring specifically to Beaudesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms or to the works of other commentators such as May, Bourinot or others, I will say that the purpose of the amendment is explained in clause 1 of the bill, and I quote:

"Consumer Price Index" with respect to any adjustment quarter means the average for that adjustment quarter of 10 the Consumer Price Index for Canada,—

Now we come to the crucial point, and I resume the quotation:

—as published by Statistics Canada under the authority of the *Statistics Act*, for each month in that adjustment quarter;"

We would like to replace that by the following words: "published by a private body of scientific statistics."