

Ways and Means

Mr. Byrne: In 1960, more jobs were created between the month of May and the month of April than in 1962. Hence that is another untruth. This statement states "Department of Labour predicts". I have checked with the Department of Labour and I have checked with the dominion bureau of statistics, none of whom made any such statement, that there would be full employment in June of 1962.

An hon. Member: There was.

Mr. Byrne: The hon. member says, "there was". There were then 214,000 live applicants for unemployment insurance in June of this year. If what the government is saying is true and if what the hon. member over on the opposite side of the chamber is saying is true, then action should be taken against 200,000 or more fraudulent applications for unemployment insurance. This government has perpetrated a fraud in so far as the advertisement is concerned on the last day of those which were provided for radio broadcasting. This government knew the situation when this advertisement was sent to the radio stations. It was sent to the stations so that they did not have sufficient time or were not allowed sufficient time to check with the board of broadcast governors. In all fairness I suggest that this statement—I refer not to the transcript but to the actual tape of that statement—be brought before the committee on privileges and elections and that they be allowed to decide whether this was not contrary to the Broadcasting Act and a completely fraudulent advertisement. This is the challenge that I make.

Mr. Starr: I rise at this point, Mr. Chairman, as the Minister of Finance said a moment ago, to vindicate a statement issued by the dominion bureau of statistics.

Mr. Chevrier: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Order. I have not heard the minister's point, if there is a point, to the extent where I can make any judgment on it. I think he is rising again with respect to civil servants or any imputations with regard to them.

Mr. Starr: Yes.

Mr. Chevrier: I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Starr: I am speaking to a point of order.

Mr. Chevrier: A question of privilege takes precedence over a point of order.

Mr. Starr: No, it does not.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman—

The Chairman: Order. First of all, I caution the minister if he is about to make a [Mr. Byrne.]

correction which does not have general application to him in person, as this is something he can do in the normal course of this debate. He may get the floor on his own account.

Mr. Starr: The hon. member is calling civil servants liars.

Mr. Pickersgill: He did not do that. The minister was not even in the house. He did not even hear what the hon. member said.

The Chairman: I will hear the hon. member for Laurier on the question of privilege.

Mr. Byrne: I ask the minister to withdraw that statement.

The Chairman: I cannot give the floor to the hon. member for Laurier if the hon. member for Kootenay East keeps rising to his feet. I will hear the member for Laurier.

Mr. Chevrier: I simply draw to your attention what the rule of the house is. The minister has no right to rise in his place and interrupt the person who is speaking. If he finds that a misstatement has been made there are two courses of action open to him. He can rise after the hon. member has finished, as is the practice in the house, or he can enter the debate himself and refute the statement. What he is trying to do now is to rise and interrupt the speech of the hon. member, which I submit with respect he has no right to do.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Chairman, all I am trying to do is to follow the procedure in this and other debates that has been followed by the Liberals.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to have it fully understood that I make no charges whatever against the officials of the dominion bureau of statistics or the officials of the Department of Labour. But I do say this sounds suspiciously like that great advertiser, Mr. Grosart, and another great Canadian who sold Canada well but has not sold the Conservative party too well. I refer to Mr. John Fisher. This sounds very much like him.

I will give the minister the news release that was issued on this occasion. The Prime Minister referred to it in his address on June 14 in Toronto, I believe. These are the actual words found in the release:

Employment rose by 247,000 between April and May. Increases were about normal for time of year in both farm and non-farm sectors.

That is not in conformity with this statement which says that never in our history has there been such an increase in jobs in one month. I have referred to the figures to show that in the last three years this is not so. I repeat that this was fraudulent