

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

to be good and sufficient reason not to give her the kind of employment by means of which she had made her living in the summer months for several years to the satisfaction of everyone, as far as I can understand. And it occurs to me to wonder who it was who first brought this information to the attention of the minister. The minister says it was the Liberal candidate, and under the rules I have to accept his word, but I will admit he is straining our credulity when he states that the Liberal candidate gave this information to him. Did the Liberal candidate say this lady was working to support the hon. gentleman who now sits for this constituency, or was she said to have supported the C.C.F. candidate? What did he say about it? How did the Liberal candidate come to bring this information to the minister? Perhaps he will tell us that.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Perhaps I might ask one question in order to elucidate this matter. There have been a number of variations reported to this house concerning the practice regarding dismissals in certain departments and what the minister has said does indicate a departure from what has been said by other ministers. The question I should like to ask is this: what is the policy followed in the department of northern affairs when there is a matter of political activity on which a report has been made. How is a person dismissed? Is it (a) by affidavit, or (b) by certificate of a member of parliament? On what basis or authority is this done?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** This lady was not dismissed. As I said before, she was not rehired. I am not quibbling over the phrase; I am simply saying that is the position. The Liberal candidate wrote me a letter and I answered it, and he wrote me another, and I think this correspondence is being tabled.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I pursue this a bit further? I was not dealing with the case which my hon. friend has brought up. I was dealing with the policy, if there is one, which is followed in the department. What policy is followed by the minister in cases such as this, and how is a person dismissed? Is it done by affidavit? Or is it done by a certificate of a member of parliament?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I do not mind trying to answer the hon. gentleman, but I think this is a matter of the general policy of the government. I suggest the question might be directed to the leader of the house.

**Mr. Pearson:** Perhaps we could put it this way. The minister has said, I think, that if an employee of this particular branch of his department, hired on a casual basis, not a

civil servant, having been hired year after year for two or three months a year; if such an employee, in between times, as a Canadian citizen, not as an employee of the government, should take any part in political activity, he or she will not be hired again.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I do not think you can lay down a general rule like that. There was an election, as hon. members know, in between the lay-off for the winter and this lady took a very active part, and I imagine that the superintendent would think it the better part of discretion not to ask her to come back again, and that is what he did.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Is there a distinction made between a civil servant and one who is not a civil servant, because I think the minister is under a misapprehension. This person was a seasonal worker, a public servant, entitled, it is true, to the benefits of the Civil Service Act, but there is a distinction. In the first case the provisions of the Civil Service Act apply but in the next case, which is the case of the person whom the hon. member for Bonaville-Twillington has been discussing, she is a member of the outside or public service, and I am wondering if there is a distinction made in the department between these two.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I do not think so far as I know. All I know is that this woman was laid off; she had no right to re-employment. You either hire a person or you do not. She was not hired.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I should like to ask a further question. Is it true or not that this lady was accepted for summer employment in the information bureau and that she was subsequently given notification cancelling the first notice?

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I am informed that that is correct.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In other words, what the minister is saying now is that this lady was given her job back, she was told to report for work, and then she was fired. Now that hardly accords with what the minister told us earlier, namely that she was not given her work back. It would appear that something happened to this lady between that first notice and that second notice. It seems to me we ought to be told what it was and where this information came from. It is one thing for the minister to say, "Oh, we did not hire her at all" but he has now told us that she was told to report to work and then that notice was cancelled. In other words you would have to consider that she was fired.