

Supply—Labour

[*Translation*]

Hogs and cattle in the province of Quebec are not waiting for government discussions, but rather for grain so as to be properly fed.

Mr. Chairman, there is always a limit to having wool pulled over our eyes and being told tall tales by cabinet members. We have enough of this.

That is why I say that according to the estimates we are being asked to vote, the Department of Labour is becoming a helpless department, no longer able to assume any responsibilities. The department is granted estimates to settle labour disputes in Canada, but afterwards, they are reduced and the department is told: it is no longer your business. Let us bring people from Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver to discuss matters in Ottawa and, during that time, people in need are awaiting results from the government. The department is aware of this.

But nothing is done about it. We are told: people are coming to Ottawa to study matters. We have been told for four years that people are coming to Ottawa to study and the minister knows exactly what I mean. He is also aware that I am speaking the truth. He said so himself earlier when he stated: my department is becoming less important; we get \$23 million less this year to run the Department of Labour.

Mr. Chairman, labour and management relations in Canada or in the province of Quebec are more important than the estimates now under consideration. And when the minister tells us: such and such labour organization—the C.L.C. or the C.N.T.U. or any other—is talking of meeting with the employers to look into the situation, then the Minister of Labour himself or one of his officials should intervene directly in those disputes without delay, instead of waiting until it is too late and the damage is done. He should delegate some departmental official, not to make matters worse between employers and workers but to act as a mediator, as a man talking to other men and getting them to agree among themselves, in the best interests of Canada and its people.

This is what is lacking within the Department of Labour as in most departments. But since we are dealing with the Department of Labour—and I am sure the minister understands the situation—I suggest that mediators be sent to settle disputes between management and labour, so as to promote conciliation instead of adding fuel to the fire and stirring up hatred, as is too often seen

between certain labour leaders and some employers in industry, trade or any other segment of the economy.

Mr. Chairman, I, for one, am not afraid to talk to a labour leader. Whether they are called Jodoin or anything else, I am not afraid to tell them what I think of them; but, at the same time, I am not afraid to tell employers what their duties are toward their employees.

Only, the employer is not the one who is going to settle the labour problem; it is the federal or provincial legislation in the province which will help to solve the labour problem, so as to avoid, in the years to come, those costly conflicts, those useless conflicts, those strikes which are breeding hate instead of understanding.

It is the first responsibility of the hon. Minister of Labour to see that such an agreement exists between management and labour. That is why I would ask him to spend the small amount he has left, namely \$10,513,000, provided it does not disappear within six months, not on useless inquiries, but with a view to creating a climate of agreement, understanding and co-operation between the various sectors in this country, in order to increase our national productivity and keep on ensuring for our labour force, our labourers, security as well as freedom.

Then, the federal Minister of Labour will have done his duty; he will not have encroached upon the rights of anybody, but he will have contributed to respect for the rights of everyone in Canada.

These, Mr. Chairman, were my comments and remarks concerning the estimates of the Department of Labour.

[*English*]

Mr. Barnett: Would the hon. member permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. Churchill: He has to catch a train.

Mr. Caouette: I will catch you before I do.

Mr. Barnett: I should like to ask the hon. member for Villeneuve this question. If he were Minister of Labour and the workers would not do what he told them to do, would he put them all in jail or would he line them up and shoot them?

Mr. Caouette: What does the hon. member mean—"line them up and shoot them"? I have been in Russia and in Czechoslovakia. They are shooting people there, but Social Crediters will never shoot anyone.