

S. O. 52

Mr. Speaker: There is a motion for an emergency debate. I would ask the Hon. Member for York Centre to address the Chair.

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MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52(1)

PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 52, I ask leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the disastrous deterioration of service to the travelling public at Canada's largest airport, Pearson International Airport, caused by the failure of the Government to do its duty to administer the airport and to make proper provision for its needs and growth. The present situation amounts to a crisis to which no adequate solution has yet been brought.

• (1700)

It is difficult for anyone to exaggerate the seriousness of this problem—and no one is more familiar with it than are Members of Parliament. Delays of up to three hours are not unknown on a daily basis at Pearson International Airport.

Given that we are now in the holiday season, and given the tremendous economic damage which has already been suffered by the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and the surrounding region, as well as to the industries involved in carriage through that airport, something has to be done.

This is a situation, Mr. Speaker, which is clearly and totally the responsibility of the federal Government to solve. One of the considerations you should bear in mind in considering this matter is the availability of other opportunities in this session to deal with it. I remind you that although we are engaged in the Throne Speech debate, it is not necessarily the case, or perhaps even likely, that there will be days devoted to the Throne Speech debate, with the result that the normal alternative times available to discuss this crisis might well not be available during this session.

I urge upon you, Mr. Speaker, the serious nature of this crisis for the entire region of southern Ontario and to permit this emergency debate to take place.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte on the same point.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, with the Chair's permission, I should like to take a minute or two to illustrate the crisis nature of the situation described by the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan)—

Some Hon. Members: No, no!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An Hon. Member: Come on, you guys. Don't you want to hear about the problem?

An Hon. Member: He is just trying to be helpful.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure all Hon. Members will understand the situation faced by the Chair. While the matter raised by the Hon. Member for York Centre is a serious one, it is not in order for other Hon. Members to speak to it at this stage. While I am sure that all Hon. Members take the matter seriously, I must restrict any comments on the matter to the Member presenting the application.

I have listened carefully to the presentation of the Hon. Member for York Centre, and as I had some notice of his application, I have had the opportunity to give the matter some considerable thought.

The Hon. Member, in his presentation, states that something may or may not transpire, such that there will not be another occasion to raise the matter in the House in this session.

I assure the Hon. Member that I consider the matter to be an important one, and certainly I will watch carefully to see how matters unfold. However, I do not think it appropriate to make an order permitting an emergency debate at this time.

ALLEGED LAY-OFFS RESULTING FROM CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, under the provisions of Standing Order 52, to move a motion calling for an emergency debate in respect of lay-offs arising out of the free trade deal.

Since the November election, Canada has witnessed some 2,400 lay-offs by a number of companies, including Northern Telecom, Gillette, Pittsburgh Paints—

An Hon. Member: And how many new jobs have been created?

Mr. Broadbent: In respect of the lay-offs in question, a case has been made that there is good reason to believe