

Adjournment Motion

insignificant in light of the fact that we are experiencing throughout the world a tremendous decrease in this year's agricultural production. We cannot wish for a miracle which will allow us to feed the multitudes with five little fishes and three loaves of bread. Do not think that I am trying to paint a picture of doom whereby the world will end at 10 a.m. tomorrow, which would be 10.30 in Newfoundland, but the situation is critical. It is of such importance and needs so much attention that every effort should be made to increase the status of agricultural production and of agricultural research; for the issue is mankind.

Food comes from two sources only, from the soil and from the water. If we were to distribute food evenly amongst the people of the world today, there would be barely enough carbohydrate to go around, and certainly not enough protein. That, coupled with the fact that on the South American and African continents 45 per cent of the population is under the age of 15, an age at which nearly two times the amount of protein intake of adults is required, should make us realize that the world is heading into a crisis unlike it has ever experienced before. It cannot be too late to concentrate our efforts on the improvement of our agriculture, for indeed if we do not the result will be mass starvation and we will go down in history as people who have not paid attention to what we have known the facts to be.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald)—House of Commons—Suggested reform of procedures—Guidelines on access to information—Request for public discussion; the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau)—Consumers—Possible solution to conflict between employees and employer at the Saint-Hilaire refinery; the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise)—Finance—Alleged denial of loans by chartered banks under Small Businesses and Farm Improvement Loans Acts.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Duclos for an Address to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

[Mr. Malone.]

[Translation]

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you, as well as the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome), for his appointment as Speaker of the House. I have known the hon. member for Sudbury for over six years. I met him at the language school at CFB Saint-Jean, Quebec, where members were taking French courses. He benefited a lot from the French immersion course given there. He speaks both official languages of this country with ease.

I would also like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have something of a unique record in this House. I have contested six federal elections and won every second one. I have a batting average of 500. Nevertheless, as I say to my friends, I do not look forward to the next one with any great enthusiasm at this point. In the constituency of Ottawa West nearly 85 per cent of the polls were taken from a historic riding known as Carleton. In the 97 years from Confederation until 1963, that riding was represented by the Conservative Party in an unbroken record. I had the honour to be the first Liberal ever to be elected to that seat.

[Translation]

● (1710)

Mr. Speaker, the ridings in the Ottawa area, even in Ontario, are not the same. In my riding, for example, only 11.2 per cent of my voters are French-speaking.

[English]

Ottawa West is not like many of the other Ottawa area ridings. The socio-economic characteristics of the majority of its residents are much closer to those of the ridings represented by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. Dick), and in some respects the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt). I have to admit that the voters have not entirely seen the error of their ways and have not been generally sympathetic to the Liberal Party.

An ex-member of parliament, now a member of the press gallery, devoted his column one day to Ottawa area MPs. He said that they were a strange breed with a strange local disease—that was an excessive and partisan support of the public service, a subject of much less concern to MPs from other parts of the country. Indeed, the majority of members of parliament who take an interest in the public service are not on the whole sympathetic to it. Their view is, I regret to say, to regard it as a large organization somewhat parasitic on the taxpayers. I admit that I am concerned and sympathetic to the public service in which I served for some nine years as an economist. If an Ottawa area MP does not show concern and sympathy, I do not know who will. In Ottawa West I tend to hear a different side of the problem from that known to many other members, even many of those from the Ottawa region.

I have to report that in my opinion a serious problem exists in the public service today. It is reflected in part in the degree to which the staff associations are choosing the strike route rather than the arbitration route in the legislation available to them. Unless the government acts, I