

Measures to Create Employment

Mr. Bell: It was not delayed at our request.

Mr. Stanfield: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I happen to know that the house leader of my party suggested to the President of the Privy Council that the motion be put yesterday.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As to that, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the hon. gentleman is not the only member of the opposition and his is not the only opposition party.

bers, and prevent the opposition utilizing a day that has been set aside to discuss a specific matter of importance to the opposition.

We agree to this motion going through, but I hope this will not be accepted as a precedent and that Your Honour and the committee will look into the matter. The object would be, of course, to make it impossible in future to prevent the opposition from utilizing the too few days set aside for the discussion of questions in which it is particularly interested.

• (2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion now made by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands follows a similar suggestion made by other hon. members. I am not sure that the members of the Committee on Procedure and Organization are altogether anxious to have another problem passed on to them; it seems to me that during the last few weeks we have from day to day passed on quite a number of our problems to them. But the suggestion is a valuable one and it might well be that the members of the committee, who are among the senior members of the House, would wish to consider the matter to which the Leader of the Opposition has also alluded.

This having been said, I must remind hon. members that the motion has been put, and I have therefore to ask whether it is the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, arising from the wording of the motion, since the terms of the motion would require the House to sit on a statutory holiday I should like to seek the guidance of the Chair on whether it is a proper motion or not.

Mr. Speaker: The motion does not apply to a statutory holiday. If the House does not sit on that day I am sure it would not be expected that the terms of the motion should apply. I would not think that the point is well taken.

Mr. MacInnis: Further to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, you say that the motion does not involve sitting on a statutory holiday. Why has the government included the only Wednesday left between now and June 26 as one of the sitting days?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I might point out, Mr. Speaker, that the motion was set down on June 11 but at the request of the opposition it was not moved earlier this week.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

MEASURES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43 and base my reason for so doing on the following facts. During May, unemployment increased from 5.6 per cent to 6.2 per cent of the work force, seasonally adjusted, the culmination of a steady rise during the past six months and an increase of 127,000 during the past year. I might point out that the government has taken pains to assert on many occasions that the seasonally adjusted figure is the only one which gives a proper picture of the labour situation in the country.

What is particularly alarming is the government's refusal to introduce measures to lower costs and prices so that products can be sold more easily against foreign competition, both in Canada and abroad, and produce more jobs. Specifically the government has refused to: 1. Introduce tax incentives to (a) increase productivity, and (b) keep price increases within the government's 2½ per cent guideline. 2. Provide penalties for exceeding the 2½ per cent guideline. 3. Strongly indicate to the lending institutions that interest rates can and should be lowered well below today's levels. 4. The Prime Minister to hold a private meeting with the leaders of organized labour to persuade them of the urgent need for labour to play its part in keeping products competitive and thus able to produce jobs. 5. Announce a program to assist exporters to maintain their present level of sales in view of the handicap imposed by the floating exchange rate.

I therefore move under Standing Order 43:

That this important matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration to consider and to report thereon to the House before June 26.