

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 9, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REFERENCE OF WHITE PAPER AND EVIDENCE ADDUCED  
TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, MANPOWER  
AND IMMIGRATION

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions about continuing the work of certain committees and in particular the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration with regard to unemployment insurance. If there is general consent, I wonder whether the following could be made an order of the House:

That the White Paper entitled "Unemployment Insurance in the 70's" laid before the House, June 17, 1970, and the evidence adduced by the committee in its study of the aforementioned matter during the second session of the 28th parliament be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the acting House leader is correct in assuming that there is general agreement that this be made an order of the House. In fact, it is in keeping with the request of the standing committee in the last session. I would just like to express the hope that if there is any delay in dealing with the white paper and the legislation to follow on the subject the government will consider bringing in interim legislation regarding unemployment insurance benefits so that in the intervening time adequate benefits will be available to meet the situation that may obtain this winter. Perhaps some time soon the government might indicate whether the bill listed by the Prime Minister yesterday, specified as a bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, is such an interim bill or whether it is the major bill to be introduced later.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Maybe he will put out a white paper on that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the suggestion made by the acting House leader. Is it the pleasure of the House to agree to this proposal?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ABDUCTION OF SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER—  
PRESENT SITUATION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to direct a question on another subject to the

Minister of Finance, but first of all I wonder whether the right hon. Prime Minister has anything further he can tell the House in connection with the Cross case.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEASURES TO COMBAT  
UNEMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he has in mind proposing any concrete measures to combat the threat of rising unemployment this winter? If so, could he indicate very briefly what these measures are, because none were mentioned in the Speech from the Throne?

**Mr. Speaker:** The statement to be made by the minister should be very brief. I appreciate the form in which the statement is suggested because normally if it were to be an extended statement it would have to be made on motions.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I will be saying something about this matter in a statement to be made during the throne speech debate.

**Mr. Stanfield:** When he makes his statement, will the minister be prepared to detail the measures that the government intends to propose, and would he also undertake to indicate clearly the direction in which the government intends to guide the economy?

**Mr. Benson:** My hon. friend will have to wait for my statement.

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## FINANCE

LOWERING OF INTEREST RATES—SUGGESTED  
MEETING WITH BANKS

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, as the minister has now had an opportunity to consider the suggestion I made the other day—he said he would consider it—of approaching the chartered banks and suggesting to them that there is no justifiable excuse for not starting to lower interest rates as the Bank of Canada and United States chartered banks have done, would he answer my question now and advise us whether he has considered calling a meeting of chartered banks to tell them that they should get on with the job of lowering interest rates in Canada without further delay?