Motion to Adjourn

CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR SUPPLYING OF FILE FOLDERS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Question No. 324-Mr. McQuaid:

For the period February 1 to 15, were any contracts awarded for the supplying of file folders to any departments and, if so (a) were tenders called prior to the awarding of such contracts and, if so (i) how many tenders were submitted (ii) what was the amount of each tender (iii) in what way were they advertised (b) to whom were the contracts awarded (c) how many file folders were involved?

Return tabled.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL EMPLOYMENT LOANS PROGRAM—NUMBER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PROJECTS

Question No. 335-Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay):

Under the Federal-Provincial Employment Loans Program administered by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (a) how many projects in British Columbia have received approval to date (b) what is the approximate cost of these projects (c) what specific projects in British Columbia have been approved (d) what is the total amount of the project loan in each instance?

Return tabled.

• (1410)

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

DISPUTE WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCAST EMPLOYEES AND TECHNICIANS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the serious damage to the performance and future of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, a public institution of vital importance to Canada largely supported by public funds, being caused by the failure of the corporation to reach a settlement with its striking employees despite the fact that negotiations with the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians commenced almost a year ago and that rotating strikes have continued for nearly four months.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South has given the Chair due notice of his intention to request leave to move a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing the specific matter stated by him.

There is little doubt that the matter stated by the hon. member is important and of current concern to Canadians and, of course, to members of the House. At the same time, it is suggested that the matter has been raised on a number of occasions during the course of the current session. The hon, gentleman will recall, for example, that he posed a question on it in the sitting of February 21 last. Since that time the same difficulty has been raised in the House in various other ways. For example, on March 16

the matter was discussed during the adjournment proceedings on the initiative of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West, and a reply was given by the Secretary of State.

It may be that in due course it will be necessary or desirable to have the House debate the question of this dispute, but it does seem to me that a motion under Standing Order 26 is not, at this moment, a suitable vehicle for such a debate. As this problem has been pending for a period of several months, it does not appear to meet the provisions of Standing Order 26 which requires that a matter proposed for discussion must relate to a genuine emergency calling for immediate and urgent consideration. It might be added that when determining whether a matter shall have urgent consideration Mr. Speaker shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within reasonable time by other means.

The decision I make at this time that the motion cannot be granted does not preclude the matter being brought forward again under Standing Order 26 at a later date. I am just making a procedural ruling to the effect that in my estimation the motion at this time does not meet all the requirements of Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING VISIT—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister about the government's policy on foreign investment which was decided upon some months ago, although it has not yet been announced. Was the specific policy discussed by the Prime Minister and the President of the United States during his recent visit, or was it discussed at some less exalted level during the visit of the delegation? If it was discussed, will the Prime Minister very briefly indicate the results of such discussions?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, there were no discussions whatsoever on the policy.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is now prepared to release its policy which was decided upon a number of months ago? Is the government now prepared to announce its policy with regard to foreign investment?

Mr. Trudeau: Preparations have been continuing, as the Leader of the Opposition suggests, and we hope we will be in a position to release that policy.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, if I am persistent it is because of the unemployment in the country, the failure of investment to respond and the importance of removing any uncertainties. I would ask the Prime Minister what assurance he is prepared to give the House with regard to

[Mr. Rodrigue.]