

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****UNEMPLOYMENT—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
UNDER STANDING ORDER 31**

Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South): Before the orders of the day are called, Mr. Speaker, I am going to disturb the tranquillity of the house for a moment by asking leave, seconded by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Noseworthy), to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 31, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious and mounting unemployment situation now facing this country and the urgent need for government action to prevent further economic distress.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has moved the adjournment of the house under standing order 31 for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious and mounting unemployment situation now facing this country and the urgent need for government action to prevent further economic distress.

The hon. member was kind enough to give me notice that he was going to make this motion. Therefore, though I did not wish to take advantage of his courtesy, I had a chance to look at the authorities. While I did not know the exact terms of the motion he was to move, I realize now that according to the terms of standing order 31 a matter which is to be proposed, if the adjournment is to be granted, must be one of recent occurrence; and it must be so important that the public interest would suffer if the matter were not debated immediately.

It strikes me that from time to time, ever since this session was inaugurated, references have been made to unemployment. Questions have been asked of the minister, and he has answered them.

It seems to me therefore that this is a situation which is not of the type coming within the terms of the provision imposed by standing order 31. I agree with the hon. member that any matter concerning unemployment in this country is one which is serious, and it might be important to debate it—but not under standing order 31. It is not the kind of situation which justifies the putting aside of the important matters which were announced by the leader of the house for consideration today. I see on the order paper, for instance, that today we shall be considering the second reading of a bill respecting the Canadian forces, another bill respecting benefits for members of the Canadian forces, and so on.

As the matter is one of a general character, and not of recent occurrence, I do not think we should put aside the orders announced for today for the purpose of adjourning the house. Therefore with great regret, and with respect, I have to give it as my opinion that this does not meet the requirements of standing order 31, and I cannot allow the motion to stand.

Mr. Gillis: If I might be permitted to say this, while I am not going to quarrel with Your Honour's ruling—because that is your prerogative—I am reasonably sure that if I had an opportunity to discuss the matter I could convince even you that it was of urgent public importance and necessitated review by members of the House of Commons. However, at another time we may have a chance to do this.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I might add a word, it is the intention on Monday to move to go into supply in respect of one or two departments. I should think that would be an occasion when the hon. member could discuss this very important subject. Then there is another point. I cannot be in the house this afternoon, and I should like to say a few words on the subject myself.

Mr. Gillis: I trust the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) will not cut in on us.

WATER POLLUTION**NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—REQUEST FOR
FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Campbell (The Battlefords): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Acting Prime Minister. My question arises partly from what has transpired in the house within the last few weeks, and partly as a result of a lengthy telegram I received last night from the mayor of Prince Albert. I shall not read it to the house, but it states that they have up-to-date facilities for the treatment of water in the city. They have tried activated carbon and chlorine dioxide since last Saturday, and there has been no improvement.

They are asking that the federal government pass a law which would cover this situation. I am asking this government, through the Acting Prime Minister, whether the government will consider the introduction of legislation immediately which would prevent any industry dumping any matter in any interprovincial river which would cause the pollution of the water in that river.