

Unemployment Figures

part of the hon. member for Peace River I do not think there is a question of privilege which ought to be debated or referred to a special committee of the House for consideration.

I understand that there is to be a continuation this afternoon of the debate on unemployment until later this evening and that a vote is to be called at 9.45 p.m. Between now and 9.45 there will be an opportunity for the hon. member who has just spoken and for other hon. members, if they want to take part in the debate, to refer to the grievance raised by the hon. member for Peace River.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pépin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Regarding the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker I think that the House ought to be informed that there has been no change in the method of establishing—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Down.

Mr. Pepin: I am not talking to you.

Mr. Hees: Look to your left. Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Obviously the minister is rising in connection with the question which has been raised by the hon. member for Peace River. As the Chair has ruled that there is no question of privilege, there should be no debate. I suspect that during the question period inquiries will be made about the matter to which the minister has just alluded, and if he wants at that point to give an explanation in reply to a question asked, that will be the proper time to make that explanation.

Mr. Lewis: Or on motions.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

Eighth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in both official languages—Mr. Clermont.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

ROYAL VISIT**BRITISH COLUMBIA—TABLING OF ITINERARY**

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2)

[Mr. Speaker.]

it gives me pleasure to table copies of the itinerary of the visit of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Ann to British Columbia in May.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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GRAIN**STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT**

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, before commencing my statement I wonder if I might express a word of apology. The lateness of the receipt of messages from Geneva has prevented us making available to hon. members copies in both languages. This will be corrected at the earliest possible opportunity.

The United Nations Wheat Conference was convened to conclude a successor agreement to the International Grains Arrangement which comprised a Wheat Convention and a Food Aid Convention. The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Maurice Schwarzmann, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and included officials of other government departments, the Canadian Wheat Board and representatives of producer organizations.

Canadian objectives at this conference were to conclude a new wheat agreement designed to provide market stability and price discipline for wheat trade. We wished to include price levels which would reflect adequate returns to efficient wheat producers. We stressed the fundamental issue of production policy and urgent need for countries which subsidize wheat production to reduce such subsidies, but it was clear that this issue could not be encompassed in this negotiation. We were openminded as to the specific details of a new agreement provided that Canada would not be placed at a competitive disadvantage and provided there was equity in rights and obligations among exporters and between exporters and importers.

We made it clear from the outset that Canada could not accept selection of a Canadian wheat as the single reference wheat as had been the case under the old international wheat agreements. Because of significantly changed world trade and production in wheat this would have put Canada at a competitive disadvantage.

A number of proposals were considered as to the shape and nature of a new agreement and as to the types of wheats on which its structure could be based. Preliminary consideration was also given to the price levels for such an agreement both at the minimum and maximum.

It would not be in the best interest of the future of wheat co-operation to enter into detail as to the particulars of these issues which were under negotiation in Geneva and which will be the subject of future discussions aimed at arriving at an acceptable solution. However, it became clear in the discussions in Geneva that despite every effort and with best will on all sides it still was not possible at this particular time to reach agree-