

HARBOURS

PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE DOCKYARD AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on a matter that is now lying before the minister, that is, the matter of the government dockyard in St. John's, Newfoundland, which is owned by the Government of Canada. The minister has had a proposal before him since March 21 requesting an \$8 million expenditure to put in a synchro lift facility so that the dockyard can get a contract with the U.S.S.R. for the repairing of 60 ships a year, which would bring in an extra 200 jobs in St. John's, Newfoundland. Can the minister tell me whether that is now before him and whether he has made a decision to advance that money for the expansion of the dockyard in St. John's, as he has done in Quebec and British Columbia recently?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the minister from Newfoundland, as well as a number of Newfoundland members in the House, have discussed with me the whole matter of the St. John's shipyard. The matter is still under discussion before the cabinet.

Mr. Crosbie: Would the minister advise the House whether his colleagues on the other side are supportive of this proposal, or are they discussing it with the minister in an unsupportive manner?

Mr. Horner: Certainly all members from Newfoundland to whom I have spoken are supporting the province and doing everything they can to help development there.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS ACT

MEASURE TO REGULATE POLLS DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

On the order: Introduction of bills:

May 10, 1978—Mr. Whiteway—Bill intituled: "An Act respecting public opinion polls"

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Yesterday, through inadvertence, a motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Whiteway), for the introduction of Bill C-455, an act respecting public opinion polls, was introduced and the bill was read the first time, ordered printed, and ordered for second reading at the next sitting of the House. All this is reflected in yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings*. I must now bring to the attention of the House, regrettably, that while the document in respect of the motion was prepared, the bill itself had not been finalized and therefore is not ready for introduction.

Order Paper Questions

Standing Order 69 is very clear. It reads:

No bill may be introduced either in blank or in an imperfect shape.

I now find myself required to direct that the order for second reading of the bill be discharged. We should also note that I ordered yesterday that the notice in the name of the hon. member for Selkirk be carried under "Introduction of Bills" on the order paper until the bill is drafted, which I expect will be shortly, and the hon. member will then be able to proceed to ask leave to introduce it pursuant to standing order.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order which I should like to put forward while the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) is in the House. It has been brought to my attention by someone outside the House that the bill he introduced yesterday has not as yet been distributed. It is an important bill, and I understand the government House leader regards it as having some priority. Perhaps the Minister of Finance has some comment on this. The fact is that the bill has not been distributed as yet. If we are going to go ahead with it tomorrow, I think it would have to be distributed within the next hour. I suppose that if we are not going to go ahead with it tomorrow, there would be time. I just warn the minister.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I followed the traditional pattern. The responsibility for the distribution of the bill in the House does not rest with the department; it rests with the House of Commons. I have introduced the bill in the usual manner.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The bill was in my hands yesterday and it should have been printed and distributed in the ordinary manner for the benefit of hon. members. I will inquire forthwith why that step has not taken place, if it has not.

* * *

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 33, 941, 1,382, 1,457, 1,458, 1,466 and 1,597.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.