

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 23, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BROADCASTING

PRESENTATION OF PETITION RESPECTING ADVERTISING ON CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House a petition under the provisions of Standing Order 67. Very briefly, the petition prays that the House will cause the Canadian Radio-Television Commission to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts which were concurred in by the House on July 24. If the petition is found to be in order, it is my hope that by agreement the subject matter of the petition or the petition itself can be referred to an appropriate committee.

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WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF MOTION TO REMOVE CUSTOMS DUTIES FROM CERTAIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 60 I wish to table notice of a ways and means motion proposing the removal of customs duties for an initial period of two years for certain petroleum products including gasoline, light heating oils, diesel and aviation fuels and feedstocks for the petrochemical industry.

Mr. Speaker: I assume that the minister has the consent of the House to return to motions for that purpose. Agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have permission to revert to motions for a brief statement about the business of the House. I should like, first of all, to draw to the attention of hon. members who may not have been in the House yesterday when agreement was reached that the deferred division on the amendments to the Criminal Code will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m.

The normal business will be interrupted at that time for the purpose of taking the vote. Thursday of this week will be an opposition day to be taken by the New Democratic Party. Tomorrow, regardless of the progress that is made on the business already announced, we will deal with the report stage of the Canada Pension Plan bill.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION—DISINCENTIVES TO WORK AS FACTOR IN LABOUR SHORTAGES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance who has now had a week to examine the latest unemployment statistics which at that time he said were "startling, disconcerting and very difficult to reconcile" with what he termed to be the very strong expansion of the economy. Now that the minister has had a week to look into this question, has he been able to reconcile what appears to him to be a contradiction? In a word or two, has he an explanation he can give the House?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think I gave an explanation in reply to the hon. gentleman's question a week ago.

Mr. Stanfield: With due respect, I do not think the minister expressed anything but surprise and amazement. Specifically, with regard to the widespread labour shortages which he said were being reported to him from across the country, has he found any evidence of disincentives to work in his examination of these labour shortages?

● (1410)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, there may be a number of factors in play. One of them certainly is reflected in the help wanted index released yesterday which shows that the number of opportunities for jobs, as published in the daily newspapers across the country, rose by 21 per cent during the third quarter of 1973.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, who a week ago seemed to be puzzled by the existence of these labour shortages in association with the sharp increase in the seasonally adjusted figure for unemployment, whether he has found any evidence that these unfilled jobs are the result of any disincentives to work?