

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, July 11, 1969

The house met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE

TABLING OF TARIFF BOARD REPORT ON POLYETHYLENE

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have tabled today copies in English and in French of the report of the Tariff Board, the reference number being No. 143, Polyethylene, together with a transcript of the evidence presented to the board in public hearings. I assure the house that the Tariff Board's recommendations will receive most careful consideration by the government. Interested parties who wish to comment on this report should do so as soon as possible.

MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND—EMBARGO AFFECTING LABRADOR CITY-WABUSH AREA

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), 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 rail embargo imposed on shipments of gasoline, automobiles, domestic heating and cooking fuels and other necessary supplies via the Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway between the province of Quebec and the towns of Labrador City and Wabush, Newfoundland, which is now causing serious shortages and severe hardship to residents of these two towns because of the depletion of fuel supplies and the unseasonably low temperatures being experienced in the area. There is need for emergency action by the Minister of Transport to avoid the impending crisis.

29180—701½

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador has brought to the attention of the house a matter which undoubtedly and clearly is of considerable urgency. The determination which must be made by the Chair is whether the house should be adjourned for the purpose of debating the situation mentioned in the hon. member's proposed motion. After much thought, I am inclined to the view that debate at this time could hardly be expected to relieve the hardships to which the hon. member refers. It should also be remembered that in order for there to be an adjournment of the house under Standing Order 26 parliament should be faced with a genuine emergency which might be termed national in character. Having considered all the aspects of the very important matter referred to by the hon. member, I do not think that the motion ought to be put to the house at this time.

• (11:10 a.m.)

GRAIN

SHORTAGE OF BOX CARS AT PRAIRIE POINTS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski), 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 dire shortage of railway box cars at grain shipping points in western Canada and the fast approaching deadline of the end of the crop year on July 31.

With the government's announcement of an equalized five bushel quota over western Canada by the end of the crop year, it will be absolutely impossible to meet this commitment unless emergency measures are established by setting up a transport co-ordinator and by extending the end of the crop year to August 31.

As there will be no opportunity for parliament to debate this national emergency, it is vitally urgent that there be a full and comprehensive discussion of this matter in the House of Commons at this time.