Railway Car Shortage

Mr. Speaker: The point raised by the hon. member is well taken. Although the notice was signed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, possibly in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister, it was a faulty entry, and the bill will appear in tomorrow's order paper as being sponsored by the honourable and gallant Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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FISHERIES

PROTECTION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INSHORE FISHERMEN AGAINST GILL-NET OPERATIONS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgency. Representation by concerned western Newfoundland fishermen, supported by the provincial government, urges protection for inshore fishermen against gill-net operators on the west coast of Newfoundland who tend to destroy our marine resources. Since the situation can reach emergency proportions I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That this House urges an immediate investigation by the Minister of Fisheries and that the matter be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; therefore the motion cannot be put.

* * *

• (1430)

[English]

TRANSPORT

RETURN OF CANADIAN RAILWAY CARS FROM UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 43 to seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, namely, the continuing shortage of railway cars in Canada for a variety of commodities and the absolute, thorough and complete inability of the Minister of Transport to rectify the situation. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin):

That this House request the Secretary of State for External Affairs to raise with Dr. Kissinger of the United States the question of the more than 24,000 Canadian railway cars that were as of the end of

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

February in the United States, with a view to having them returned to Canada for use in the Canadian interest.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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INDUSTRY

PACKAGING—SHORTAGE OF SUPPLIES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Ed Nelson (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Whereas it has been reliably reported that up to 65 employees have been laid off at two packaging plants in the Richmond area of British Columbia, namely, Belkin Packaging and Capital Bag, and whereas the reason for these lay-offs is that major suppliers are exporting so much of the liner board and bag craft paper needed for processing of finished products that lay-offs are occurring for lack of supplies, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Neale):

That the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce be instructed to co-operate with the B.C. provincial government in taking immediate action to ensure that domestic needs are given priority.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are marked by an asterisk.)

[Text]

CANADIAN PENSION COMMISSION—OUTSTANDING CASES

Question No. 11-Mr. Rowland:

1. How many cases are now awaiting handling by the Canadian Pension Commission?

2. What is the average amount of time involved in the processing of a case once it has been received by the commission?

3. Is the government giving consideration to again increasing the number of commissioners in order to more rapidly reduce the backlog of cases?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): 1. Seven thousand three hundred sixty-two as of February 24, 1974. This includes a number for which a notice of intent has been filed with the commission to establish an effective date in the event of an award being