

AGRICULTURE

CRITICISM OF MINISTER'S ACTIONS VIS-À-VIS GATT
NEGOTIATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a motion under Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that trade in agricultural products is not mentioned in Canada's original presentation at GATT, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise):

That the Minister of Agriculture be severely reprimanded for being so callous toward trading relations in agricultural products.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

REQUEST FOR EXPANSION OF ADULT TRAINING COURSES—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the terms of Standing Order 43, I request the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion dealing with an important and urgent matter.

As there is an everincreasing number of unemployed, and as there is good reason to hope that the situation is only temporary, for I am very optimistic seeing Canada will be needing more and more trained workers to fill the needs of its industrial development, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard):

That this House urge the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) to negotiate with the provincial governments, and more particularly with that of Quebec, that more people be allowed to benefit from the adult training programs, more specifically in the field of heavy equipment, with a view to soon being able to meet the needs more adequately in that field.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the terms of Standing Order 43, the motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WHO COLLECTED WELFARE AFTER
EXPIRY OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I wonder if the minister can confirm to the House of Commons the accuracy of figures from the Unemployment Insurance Commission which indicate that in the month of December alone in excess of 42,000 Canadians who were on unemployment insurance had their benefits expire and went onto the welfare rolls of the provinces or municipalities, many of whom were not in a position to bear the financial burden of this failure in federal policy. Can the minister confirm that the expiry rate of people on unemployment insurance benefits was more than 42,000 in the month of December alone?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, once again we have the official opposition trotting out all of the figures from StatsCan and always emphasizing the negative, never the positive—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1417)

Mr. Cullen: —never the fact that some \$117 million, for example, was spent in the Atlantic provinces to help with employment, never the fact that we introduced the job experience training program in co-operation with private enterprise. Never anything positive, always the negative.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, as the unemployed of Canada know, there is a great deal of negative to emphasize in the record of this government. I presume the minister's evasion can be taken as confirmation that, indeed, in one month alone 42,000 or more Canadians went off unemployment insurance and onto the welfare rolls of provinces and municipalities, which cannot afford that burden.

Is the minister monitoring that situation now? Given the fact that in the month of December, 37 per cent of those who were unemployed had been unemployed for longer than three months, can the minister tell us what will be the number of people who will be coming off unemployment insurance, because of the failure of this government, and becoming a charge on local municipalities and provinces which cannot afford that burden?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, here, again, the Leader of the Opposition does not, in fact, indicate that half of the cost of that particular operation is borne by the federal government. He also neglects to point out the facilities that are available in all of the regions for training, for the replacement of these individuals, and for mobility grants where they are necessary. It is not as though there is no help available. The fact is that