Unemployment Insurance Act

Messrs

Gendron Lefebvre Pelletier Goodale Loiselle Penner Goyer (Chambly) Philbrook Guav Loiselle Portelance (St. Boniface) (Saint-Henri) Poulin Guay Lumley MacDonald Prud'homme (Lévis) Railton Guilbault (Cardigan) Raines Halliday MacDonald Reid Reynolds Hamilton (Egmont) (Swift Current-Macdonald Richardson Maple Creek) (Rosedale) MacFarlane Roberts Hargrave Robinson Harquail Mackasev Roche Rompkey Hees MacLean Herbert Malone Roy Hnatyshyn Marceau (Timmins) Holt (Mrs.) Roy (Laval) Marchand Hopkins (Kamloops-Cariboo) Howie Marshall Rynard Huntington Martin Saltsman Hurlburt McCain Sauvé (Mrs.) Isahelle McGrath Schellenberger Jarvis McIsaac Scott Jelinek McKenzie Sharp Joyal McKinley Skorevko Kaplan Smith McKinnon Kempling McRae (Churchill) Knowles Milne Smith (Norfolk-Haldimand) (Saint-Jean) Mitges Lachance Stanfield Muir Lajoie Munro Stewart Lalonde (Esquimalt-Saanich) (Marquette) Lambert Tessier Munro (Edmonton West) (Hamilton East) Towers Landers Murta Trudeau Lang Neil Trudel Langlois Nicholson (Miss) Turner Laniel Nielsen (London East) Lapointe O'Connell Wagner Watson La Salle Olivier Leblanc O'Sullivan Whiteway (Laurier) Paproski Wise LeBlanc Woolliams Parent (Westmorland-Kent) Patterson Yanakis Young-178 Pearsall

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost. Motion No. 9 (Mr. Peters) negatived.

Mr. Stanfield: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do so not to dispute any vote which has taken place but to seek your guidance in connection with future votes. I am referring to the fact that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) was not in his place at the time the Whips sat down.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Perhaps members opposite would quieten down. It did not affect the outcome of the vote, but I cannot recall any instance since I have been here when a minister whose vote was recorded was not in his seat at the time the Whips took their seats, and since there is the possibility of dispute in the future over this kind of question, I seek your guidance.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Hon. members over there can settle down for a moment. I am seeking guidance for future situations so that there may be no misunderstanding. I do not know whether the Minister of Justice has anything to say about [Mr. Speaker.]

this tonight, but it might be helpful if Your Honour would inform the House as to the view of the Chair on this question. Must a member be in his place for a vote according to the traditions of this House when the two Whips sit down, or is moving around in the chamber after the Whips have taken their places in order?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) raising this matter in order, as he says, that Your Honour might give guidance to the House on this issue. I do not have the rule in front of me but I believe it says that members must be in the House at the time a vote is called. I want to assure honourable members that I was in the House. I apologize to Your Honour for not being in my place at the time you called the vote. I was discussing a matter of urgent public and state importance with the honourable member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather).

(2210)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: I have always regarded him with high esteem, and his conversation was so engaging that I apologize to Your Honour for not realizing you had called the vote.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) raises a point of order which certainly is worthy of consideration, and he is totally accurate when he indicates that I would not propose to deal with it at this time. The question of whether or not the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) was in the Chamber is one I noted carefully when the matter first arose. Certainly the minister was in the chamber at the time. However, there are clear restrictions against members moving about during the taking of a vote, the obvious reason being, of course, that members who move about during the taking of a vote even after casting their ballots make accuracy very difficult. Therefore respect for the rule is expected.

The Minister of Justice has apologized to the Chair for what is a very rare occurrence. Presumably it would affect the first vote; those thereafter I presume will be valid because the minister was properly in his seat. The Leader of the Opposition does not challenge the vote in any way; that is clear. The vote having once been taken and recorded, it cannot be challenged in any event. The Leader of the Opposition has asked the Chair to take the point of order under consideration. This I will be pleased to do and perhaps will reconsider it at a later time.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.