

represented by an eastern agricultural products commission of which the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would be the co-chairman or the honorary chairman.

I ask him and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) to help us so that one day we shall get the same results as the western farmers.

### PRIVATE BILLS

PERTH MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY—  
MOTION TO REFER DELAYED PETITION

**Mr. Gérard Duquet (Quebec East):** Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. Groos, I have the honour to move:

That the petition of The Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Company, filed after the time limit specified by Standing Order 90, be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, with the eleventh report of the Clerk of Petitions tabled in the house on Wednesday, February 26, 1969, so that the Committee may make the recommendations it shall deem necessary.

Motion agreed to.

[English]

### MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO COPE  
WITH UNEMPLOYMENT—MOTION TO AD-  
JOURN UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), 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 urgent situation revealed in the unemployment statistics released today, showing 10.5 per cent unemployment for the Atlantic area, 8.4 per cent for Quebec, 6.6 per cent for British Columbia—6 per cent being the overall figure for the entire country—and the failure of the government to provide policies to cope with this situation, particularly its failure to provide alternative seasonal employment programs to take the place of the winter works program cancelled unilaterally by the government.

• (2:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Having considered the hon. member's notice of motion I can do no better than to refer him to the ruling of the Chair

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#### Labour Conditions

when a similar motion was presented by the hon. member for York South on January 16 last. In particular I refer hon. members to the ruling of Mr. Speaker Michener, made on March 23, 1959. On that occasion he said:

I have felt that the question of unemployment, which is a continuing one, can scarcely be brought forward under rule 26. The circumstance alleged by the hon. member for Essex East, namely a joint release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, scarcely alters the situation, in my opinion, to a point where the house should be asked to interrupt its ordinary business.

Under the circumstances I do not think it would be in order to put the hon. member's proposed motion to the house.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have no wish to dispute Your Honour's decision and, under the rules of the house, cannot do so. With great deference however I would ask Your Honour, in interpreting the standing orders in future, to give some thought to distinguishing what might be termed continuing problems. If a problem continues to exist for a certain period of time surely there comes a point in time when it reaches critical proportions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In raising his point of order the hon. member himself has said that he cannot question the ruling of the Chair. I know what the hon. member has in mind and I can assure him I appreciate the fact that in some circumstances a continuing situation may reach a point where perhaps the general rule should be discarded. The situation might then be considered a matter of sudden emergency, to the extent that the motion should be allowed. As I say, I appreciate the point made by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I assure him that it will always be one of the considerations taken into account by the Chair when similar motions are presented to the house.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

REFERRAL OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES TO  
MEDIATION PROCEDURES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question which relates to an answer he gave me yesterday. He said that both parties in the Post Office dispute, namely the Post Office and the union, have agreed