

Housing

In the next ten days there will be more than 200,000 additional students from colleges and high schools also looking for summer employment. Although there are no definite figures we do know that 6.6 per cent of the Canadian labour force is unemployed and if the students that are unemployed were added to this figure it would bring unemployment in Canada up to 8 per cent. I would hope that this government has the heart to do even more than was suggested today.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether I should infer from the hon. member's statement that he is making his motion or is withdrawing it.

Mr. Woolliams: No, I am making it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North had filed the notice required by Standing Order 26 and, of course, I have had an opportunity to give the matter some serious thought since then. Hon. members are well aware that the matter of summer employment for students has been brought to the attention of the House on a number of occasions in recent weeks. In particular, a motion similar to that now before us was proposed on May 14 by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. The ruling of the Chair on that occasion read in part as follows:

In so far as the reference to the problem of student employment during the summer months is concerned, it is hardly necessary for me to remind hon. members that a debate on this very subject took place on Friday last, when a supply motion was presented to the House by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

In view of the fact that there has already been a special debate in the House on this very subject, considering that it has been the subject of a number of interventions by hon. members since then, and taking into account the statement made on motions by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration which has been followed by the interesting and constructive comments of hon. members speaking on behalf of the parties in opposition, including the statement made by the hon. member for Calgary North, I would not think that I am at liberty at this time to put to the House the motion proposed by the hon. member.

HOUSING**DROP IN STARTS IN URBAN CENTRES**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for [Mr. Woolliams.]

Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), 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 announcement by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation of a drop of 50.1 per cent in housing starts in urban centres for the first five months of this year compared with a similar period last year, thereby creating a new and alarming crisis in Canada, and making it urgent that Parliament deal immediately with the situation that has now been created before the people of Canada suffer undue hardship from the housing shortage and excessively high rents and mortgage interest rates.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Broadview has also given the Chair the notice required under the terms of Standing Order 26. Hon. members will recognize that the report on which the hon. member for Broadview has based his motion is analogous to the periodic announcements made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and other government agencies dealing, for example, with the cost of living, with employment or unemployment with import or export statistics. There are many precedents indicating that in the circumstances it is not competent upon the Chair to accept such motions.

In the circumstances I regret very much that I have to advise the hon. member that I cannot agree the House should be adjourned for the purpose he has suggested under the terms of Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**URBAN AFFAIRS****PROPOSED FORUM FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION—ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Minister without Portfolio from Port Arthur was announcing government policy when in Halifax he recommended a forum for federal-provincial-municipal consultation on urban matters, with the municipalities having a legitimate and recognized place at the table with the provinces, with the federal government laying on that table all federal policies and actions that affect the cities for discussion and co-ordination with provincial and municipi-