

S.O. 26

[Translation]

—in French and English, our two official languages.

[Editor's Note: For above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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PETITION

MR. CLARK—CALL FOR ABANDONMENT OF SALES TAX
PROPOSAL AFFECTING WHOLESALERS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have the duty and the responsibility to present a petition on behalf of 96 citizens from Grande Cache, Alberta.

The nature and purpose of this petition is to inform the federal Government that the announcement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) of October 27, 1982 to delay the implementation of the proposed federal sales tax onto wholesalers until the middle of 1984 is not adequate. They call on the Government to have the Government publicly abandon, not simply delay, its proposed federal sales tax onto the wholesalers of Canada.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

Madam Speaker: I have a notice of a motion under Standing Order 26 by the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent).

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper), to move the adjournment of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter, namely the continuing unemployment situation which has reached a new critical plateau entailing the following elements: a record high level of unemployment which now includes heads of families as constituting more than one-third of the total unemployed in Canada; a total number of unemployed which more than equals the combined labour force of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Manitoba; the reality that more than one-quarter of a million men and women have now been unemployed for over a year.

This alarming human and economic information, presented in a context in which the forecast of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) for improvement made on October 27 has turned out to be incorrect and in the context of statements

made this week by the same Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) that no new programs dealing with unemployment would be announced before the Christmas recess, means we have reached a new and acute situation in the problem of unemployment in our country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member has given the Chair the required notice of the motion that he has now proposed to the House. As the Hon. Member knows, a matter can only be proper to be discussed under the provisions of Standing Order 26 if it is a genuine emergency, a sudden or unexpected occurrence. Section 16(a) of the Standing Order reads as follows:

The matter proposed for discussion must relate to a genuine emergency, calling for immediate and urgent consideration.

I and my predecessors have consistently ruled that matters of ongoing concern and of a chronic nature are not proper to be discussed under this Standing Order.

I would also draw to the attention of Hon. Members Citation 288 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, which states:

The Speaker is bound to apply to motions made under S.O. 26 the established rules of debate, and to enforce the principle that subjects excluded by those rules cannot be brought forward thereon, such as a matter under adjudication by a court of law, or matters already discussed or appointed for consideration during the current session, whether upon a substantive motion, upon an amendment, or upon an Order of the Day.

Members will be aware that the House has debated the subject of unemployment on a number of occasions, the most recent being November 5, 1982.

I must further point out to the Hon. Member that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) announced yesterday that next Thursday would be the final allotted day for this supply period which the House could use not only to discuss this important matter but also to demand a vote on it.

For these reasons, I regret that I cannot accept the matter as being proper to be discussed under the provisions of Standing Order 26, although it is, of course, a matter of extreme importance.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. KRISTIANSEN—COMMENT OF MR. LeBLANC DURING
QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In answer to a question I put to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. LeBlanc) yesterday during Question Period, the Minister said, as reported on page 21202 of *Hansard*:

Madam Speaker, I need your guidance as to whether we are answering questions on a regional basis or on a departmental basis.