

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Yes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Pursuant to the special order made earlier this day, the recorded division on the motion now before the House will be deferred and will be set down as the first order of government business for tomorrow's sitting.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, would a member on the government side give us a rundown of the business for tomorrow?

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, as the first item of business tomorrow we shall proceed with the vote that was the subject of the order of the House this afternoon. Following that it will be our intention to call the co-operatives measure of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Then we shall call the Buffalo and Fort Erie bridge bill, followed by the merchant seamen compensation bill and then the packaging and labelling legislation. We prefer to leave open the possibility of our making a further announcement concerning the business for Wednesday.

Mr. Basford: There is also the weights and measures bill to be considered.

An hon. Member: Ten o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Does the House agree to call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

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

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION—DEPARTMENTAL
STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
BASE CLOSURES**

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, on October 26 I asked the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).]

(Mr. Marchand) if he would make public the report of his department concerning the regional economic implications of Canadian forces base closures. The minister's reply was as follows:

—there is no question of making a public report. Nevertheless, this question is under consideration since the cabinet decided to close the two bases and, by the way, I shall be going to Manitoba very soon to review with the Manitoba government the best means of correcting the unfortunate consequences of these two base closures.

There are three points to note in the minister's reply. Firstly, we still do not know whether or not there is a report on the regional economic implications of base closures, although I have it on good authority that there is. If there is no such report, I suggest that that fact represents gross negligence and an appalling lack of interdepartmental co-operation by the government. Secondly, if there is a report, the minister has decided not to make it public; and thirdly, the minister intends to assist areas affected to overcome the adverse effects on their economies.

With respect to the third point, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the minister has been most co-operative, and if results measure up to the degree of co-operation which he has manifested we shall be most happy. However, I must also say, with all deference, that government offers of aid to achieve economic recovery are really beside the point, because citizens have the right to expect no less from their government; they are entitled to the kind of assistance which the government is prepared to offer.

The point to which I wish to address myself is the second, the seeming unwillingness of the minister to make public the information pertinent to a proper assessment by the public, and especially by residents of the areas affected, of a government decision having a profound effect upon the economy and social structure of a number of communities in the nation.

I should like to illustrate my point by referring to the effect of the closure of Canadian forces base Gimli upon the community of Gimli and the economy of the Interlake. The closure means a loss to the Interlake in excess of \$7.3 million a year in salaries and wages. It means a reduction of 35 per cent per annum in total federal government expenditures in the Interlake. Closure of the base will mean a population reduction in the Interlake, mainly in the town and rural municipality of Gimli, due to the migration of military personnel and their dependants. The total number of persons involved is 2,394, or 42 per cent of the town and rural municipality of Gimli, the population of which totalled 5,660 persons. These figures are agreed to by officials of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

In short, Gimli is fighting for its life and the economy of the Interlake, an area selected for special attention for economic upgrading by the federal and provincial governments, has been dealt a body-blow. In such a situation it is only logical that the people affected should demand to know how and why their area was selected to suffer. They want to know the criteria which were employed in