

*Unemployment Insurance*

we have had to consider those statistics and motions proposed on a regular basis dealing with those reports made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Chair has expressed the thought that because of the recurring nature of the matter and since we were dealing, unfortunately, with a continuing situation it was very difficult from a strictly procedural standpoint, to allow the adjournment of the House for an emergency debate.

The Chair must also take into account the possibility or probability of a debate by other means in the future. I do not think I can honestly overlook the fact that we still have before us and available to all hon. members for the purpose of general debate, particularly on the economic situation, 11 supply days which will be available during the weeks ahead. There is also the fact, as announced by the Minister of Finance, that there will be at least the beginning of a budget debate. I do feel that there will be a reasonable opportunity for debate on this very important and urgent matter within the days ahead.

• (2:30 p.m.)

Because of all these circumstances, and taking into account the precedents and the requirements of Standing Order 26, I do not think that from a procedural standpoint that it is possible for me to agree to an adjournment of the House later today for consideration of the very serious matter referred to by the hon. members for York South and Prince Edward-Hastings.

I might say that there is a third motion which in some ways is related to the two to which I have just alluded. The third motion is proposed by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, but there are other aspects of this motion which the Chair would like to consider separately. Perhaps the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby might be allowed at this time to make his motion.

**An hon. Member:** The budget debate is a month away.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****EMERGENCY AID TO PERSONS NO LONGER ABLE TO DRAW BENEFITS**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg), 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 need to provide emergency aid to the thousands of unemployed Canadians who are no longer able to draw unemployment insurance benefits because high levels of unemployment have continued so long and because the government has announced its intention not to continue seasonal benefits beyond the end of this week.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby has given notice of this motion. I have again considered the matter very seriously and, as I pointed out a moment ago, there are very special aspects to this motion which

[Mr. Speaker.]

perhaps are not germane to the other two motions to which I have referred, particularly in relation to the government's announced intention not to continue seasonal benefits beyond the end of this week. I have been reflecting on this aspect of the matter.

The Standing Order makes it possible for the Chair to delay decision on such a motion. I should like to have an opportunity later this afternoon to consider certain aspects of the matter, perhaps even in the light of the question period, and later this afternoon indicate to hon. members whether I feel there is such a difference between this motion and the other two that it might be allowed for the purpose of a special debate later today. If hon. members will allow the Chair to do so, as provided by the Standing Order, we will allow this motion to stand and I shall refer to it later in the course of our proceedings this afternoon.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—ECONOMIC STIMULATION BY TAX REDUCTIONS**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance arising out of the very disturbing figures just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the month of April relating to employment, and particularly unemployment. Is the minister now prepared to take the advice that we have been offering him for some months and stimulate the economy through selective tax reductions and other methods? I emphasize this, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the seasonally adjusted increase in unemployment between the month of March and April this year is the highest such increase in 20 years.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in preparing the forthcoming budget I shall of course take into consideration all the advice I receive, including advice from the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the minister's statement on January 19 that he would be prepared to bet that unemployment on a seasonally adjusted basis would be progressively reduced throughout the year, I should like to ask the minister whether he meant to indicate that he was staking his position on that forecast and, if so, whether he is now prepared to pay off his bet and resign?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Resign!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition is inviting the Minister of Finance—I am not sure what it is he wants him to do, to wager or bet or invest—