

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Baldwin: I therefore ask that the following motion be put:

That this House ought to refuse to enact any further legislation which delegates power to the government or its agencies until the safeguards provided in the report of the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments have been implemented.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: As there is not unanimous agreement the motion cannot be put.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

FINANCE

MEASURES TO OFFSET DISADVANTAGES ARISING FROM UNPEGGING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 to discuss a specific and important matter within the administrative responsibilities of the government that requires urgent consideration.

This important and urgent matter is the impelling duty upon the government to give leadership by announcing forthwith a program of measures designed to complement and to offset the disadvantages consequential upon the unpegging of the Canadian dollar from a fixed exchange rate; that is, a program that will counteract the increasing difficulties faced by Canadian exporters and primary producers, the increasing difficulties faced by our domestic producers in the Canadian market, the undoubted resulting increase in unemployment; and, essentially a program that, by its immediate announcement, will ease the confusion among Canadians as to the financial and economic direction of the Canadian government.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition has given the Chair the notice required under Standing Order 26, and I have since then given very serious thought to the motion. While I have some reservations and misgivings about the terms or the form of the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposi-

tion, I readily recognize, as I am sure all hon. members do, that this is a matter which is one of urgency, one of national concern, and one which at the first opportunity should be considered by the House. It has occurred to me from time to time that perhaps some of these serious and urgent matters ought to be considered and debated by the House under the terms of other Standing Orders, but at the same time the change in the rules which the House adopted some time ago was for the purpose of making it somewhat easier for the House to consider matters of urgency under the provisions of Standing Order 26.

Having considered all aspects of the matter, I have come to the conclusion that the subject matter proposed for discussion by the Leader of the Opposition is one which does fall within the purview of Standing Order 26, and I propose to put the motion.

Has the hon. member leave to move the motion for the purpose of discussing the matter stated by him?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity. If 20 members rise, the motion will be put.

And more than 20 members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: The proposed motion will stand over until 8 p.m. this day.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

INDUSTRY

EFFECT OF FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE ON EXPORT COMPANIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Why has he made no statement on the effect of the upward revaluation of the dollar upon Canadian export industries and the measures that his department proposes to take with regard to these effects? I ask him this question particularly in view of the absence of any such statement from the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the importance of the matter now raised by the Leader of the Opposition but I am sure he will appreciate that the Chair has just ruled that there should be a debate tonight on this same subject. Yesterday we spent more than