

*Unemployment in Maritimes*

Mr. GILLIS: Mr. Speaker, as I stated when I first rose in my place, there is no minister in the house I would rather oblige. However, under the circumstances the matter I am about to discuss is a serious one.

Mr. MacNICOL: On a point of order; if the hon. member is going to make a speech on any subject on going into supply, then surely the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough, who has taken his seat, should have the right to go ahead, as the minister has suggested.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister has made a request of the hon. member for Cape Breton South. The hon. member has not yet stated whether he is prepared to allow the matter he has in mind to stand over until a future time. He should now be given an opportunity to state his position.

Mr. GILLIS: Mr. Speaker, we are wasting a good deal of time. It is my intention to proceed with the subject matter I am about to discuss.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the point of order raised by the hon. member for Davenport; I understand that the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough entered into an agreement on the understanding that we would immediately go into supply. If we are not going into supply immediately, then he should be given an opportunity to make his representations now.

Mr. MacINNIS: On the point of order; the arrangement made between the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough and the minister was a personal one and, if the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough has given way, it is not binding upon the rest of the members. He gave way on the understanding that the motion to go into supply would be made tomorrow.

I am not suggesting that the hon. member for Cape Breton South should or should not give way. But it has no bearing on the other matter which has already been settled.

Mr. MARTIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, what the hon. member has just said is true, technically. But I take it that, as leader of the house for the moment, I was expressing what seemed to be the consensus of the house generally when I made the arrangement with the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough. The hon. gentleman is known by everyone in all quarters of the house as being extremely fair-minded, and I say that in all sincerity. I know he will recognize and appreciate the position of the hon. member for Hastings-

[Mr. Martin.]

Peterborough. I say to him that, in view of the fact that the ministers are, in line of duty, inevitably outside the house, my request is not an unreasonable one, particularly when an opportunity will be given tomorrow to deal with the important matter the hon. gentleman says he has in his mind. I again ask him as one who will understand the reasonableness of my request.

Mr. GILLIS: The hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough wishes to discuss a matter which pertains to only one department and it is reasonable to ask that the minister of that department should be here. The matter which I am going to discuss has to do with government policy as applied to the section of the country which I represent in this house. Whether there are one, two or half a dozen ministers here is immaterial. This matter has been outstanding for some considerable time and apparently no effort has been made to adjust it. It is a grievance which will not take me very long to state; I think it is important enough to be stated at this time and I intend to proceed.

Mr. MacNICOL: On a point of order.

Mr. GILLIS: Have I the floor?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Davenport has risen on a point of order, but I think the hon. member for Cape Breton South should be allowed first to state his position. I do not want the hon. member for Cape Breton South to discuss his grievance; I want him just to state his position.

Mr. GILLIS: You mean as to whether or not I intend to proceed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. GILLIS: It is my intention to observe the rules of the house and proceed with my discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Davenport was raising a point of order.

Mr. MacNICOL: My own opinion is that, under the circumstances, the request made by the minister was fair and the acceptance of that request by the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough showed a chivalrous spirit on his part. If the debate is to go on, to save the minister being charged tomorrow with not having the debate go on I think the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough should precede the hon. member for Cape Breton South. The hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough gave up the floor on the suggestion of the minister and we all felt that