

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 21, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Clermont.

(Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.)

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL REDUCTION, GOOSE BAY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask leave of the House to present a motion under Standing Order 43. My motion deals with an announcement made this morning that effective June 30 this year there will be a reduction of 570 military personnel, representing approximately 40 per cent of the United States Air Force complement at Goose Bay, and also a reduction of 30 in the civilian force. As it would appear that the same pattern of phase-out as at other United States installations in Newfoundland—Harmon Field, Pepperel and Argentia—has commenced, and as the Goose Bay area appears to offer no alternative employment opportunities whatsoever, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That the Secretary of State for External Affairs take immediate action to determine the full intent of the American authorities with regard to the future of the U.S. base at Goose Bay.

That the government immediately move to prepare a contingency plan to meet what would undoubtedly be an emergency situation of national importance should the Americans completely abandon this base as in the cases of Harmon Field and Fort Pepperel.

● (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member who has just spoken. Before it can be put to the House unanimous consent is required under the terms of Standing Order 43. I will therefore inquire whether there is such unanimity.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity and consequently the motion cannot be put under the terms of Standing Order 43.

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ARREST AND BAIL

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-218, to amend the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to the release from custody of accused persons before trial or pending appeal.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

FINANCE

TAXATION—ONTARIO PLAN TO AID SMALL BUSINESSES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Minister of Finance who I know is lurking behind the curtains because I have seen his pipe and his face behind it. I wonder if we could wait for a moment until the hon. minister takes his place. Can we give him a hand, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Tally-ho!

Mr. Hees: It is nice to see him back. My question is: As two months have now passed since the last federal-provincial finance ministers conference to which the treasurer of the province of Ontario submitted for consideration a plan to aid small business, has the Minister of Finance given consideration to this proposal during the intervening period and has he decided that it would be possible to utilize this excellent plan to aid small businesses across the country?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I have not only reviewed this plan but I have reviewed alternatives to it. As I have indicated previously, we have been looking at the situation—the white paper proposals, the submissions of business and the submissions of the province of Ontario with respect to the small business problem—and I would hope that when the tax bill is ultimately produced it will be well accepted by small business in the country.

Another point I should like to bring out is that the treasurer of Ontario has asked for a further meeting between provincial treasurers and finance ministers and myself. I am trying to arrange such a meeting in February but I am having a little difficulty because there are some important things going on for the Tory party in Ontario in February.