

RCMP

Say a plant goes bankrupt in a small town and lays off its entire work force. You could have a pocket of high unemployment in an area otherwise prosperous. Would the computer take this pocket of unemployment into account? Would that affect the over-all standing of the region? Would regional unemployment benefit levels be affected? What would happen if unemployment in Oil Springs and Petrolia were high, but at low levels in Sarnia? Would the high level of employment in Sarnia affect the eligibility of people in Oil Springs and Petrolia for extended benefits? Will the standing of the general region be affected? There may not be much unemployment in Sarnia; I do not know; I have not been there for some time. I can ask relatives about conditions in the area; I have many relatives there.

An hon. Member: In the hotel?

Mr. Peters: No, the hotel burned down some time ago. That relative retired. He went to Sudbury.

Mr. Rodriguez: Another capitalist.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I was talking about what would happen if unemployment in Oil Springs, say, were high at a time when unemployment in Sarnia was low. I think I have made my point. I suppose the government would feed the problem into the computer. I am concerned about the people of Kirkland Lake who face major problems. About 1,000 have been laid off in the area, one of the largest gold mines having closed. Their lumber industry is hurt, and other resource-based industries are badly hit. It seems to me we should make conditions easier in these areas.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PROPOSED ADDITION TO TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The terms of reference for the inquiry into the RCMP are silent in the one area which has been of great concern to the House of Commons and to the

[Mr. Peters.]

public—the question of the quality of the political responsibility for the RCMP exercised by past Ministers, and the implications of that responsibility or lack of it for the constitutionally essential doctrine of ministerial responsibility.

I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty):

That in the opinion of this House the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into the operations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, established under the Inquiries Act, should be amended by

(1) adding after the last "whereas" clause the following: "and Whereas it is essential that this inquiry demonstrate that proper ministerial accountability for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been exercised in the past, and that proper procedures exist for exercising full ministerial responsibility at present and in the future;" and

(2) by adding at the end the "Therefore" clause after paragraph (c) the following paragraph:

"(d) to investigate and report on the manner in which Solicitors General have exercised their constitutional obligation to supervise fully the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and report thereon to the Parliament of Canada."

Mr. Speaker: Under the terms of Standing Order 43 unanimous consent is required before such a motion can be presented. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I expect the same fate will befall my proposal.

Considering that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Solicitor General (Mr. Lee) told the House on June 15, 1976 that an investigation into the RCMP break-in in the fall of 1972 had been completed, presumably to the satisfaction of the government, and considering there is conflicting testimony as to the degree of knowledge possessed by the then solicitor general in 1972 pertaining to this break-in, and considering that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) indicated in the House on June 20 and June 22 of this year that he was concerned about the political accountability aspect of RCMP activities, and, finally, in order to avoid the implication that the Royal Commission announced yesterday will have as its sole purpose the making of a scapegoat of the RCMP, I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House instruct the government to change the terms of reference of the Royal Commission to include an additional clause (d) to read:

(d) To investigate and report on the adequacy of accountability procedures designed to ensure effective authority over the RCMP by the elected government of the day.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House under the terms of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.