

Unemployment Insurance

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, this is a serious subject and I do not want to get into the realm of the facetious, because I am gravely concerned about the plight of people in many centres across Canada today who are having to wait for what seems unreasonable lengths of time in order to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.

I brought this up in the house yesterday. I probably should apologize to the Minister of Labour because unfortunately I was not aware at the time that he was not here and was not represented in the house. Probably he has been informed of my question in the meantime. I should like to bring to his attention, to the attention of the government and of this house the fact that although we are under the impression that these claims for benefit are met promptly in the various offices across this country, such is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to encroach upon the time of this house further. I realize that my time is up and I think I have made my point. I ask the Minister of Labour to take this matter into consideration.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

The estimates of the following departments were first taken up and entered for consideration:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. General administration, \$628,277.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

94. Departmental administration, \$4,880,806.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

172. Departmental administration, \$543,155.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

297. Departmental administration, \$637,817.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

333. Departmental administration, \$2,091,516.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

435. Departmental administration, \$1,937,680.

Proceedings reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the order of business will be, first, the Canada Council bill; then the Export Credits Insurance Act; then the resolution on the Canadian Farm Loan Act, and finally the resolution in the name of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources with respect to certain museums.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.