

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 24, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

TABLING OF SPECIAL AREA AGREEMENTS WITH NEW BRUNSWICK AND NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENTS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion I should like to table copies of the special area agreements between the government of Canada and the provinces of New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

• (11:10 a.m.)

LABOUR RELATIONS

PROSPECTIVE LAY-OFF OF CPR CLERKS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House to present a motion under Standing Order 43. The pressing and urgent necessity for such a motion as mentioned in the Standing Order is that there is a serious situation developing because of the announcement by the Canadian Pacific Railway that it intends to reduce by 10 per cent its expenditures on clerical services, which will result in the laying off of several hundred workers. In view of the seriousness of the situation and the dispute that is arising, it seems to me the House will agree that this matter ought to be considered by an appropriate committee. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Skoberg):

That the action of the Canadian Pacific Railway in announcing a 10 per cent reduction in its clerical services, and the lay-off of several hundred workers that will result therefrom, be referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration for consideration and report.

Mr. Speaker: As hon. members know, a motion under Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such unanimous agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous agreement. The motion posed by the hon. member cannot be put at this time.

RAILWAY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING NOTICE AND FULL DISCLOSURE OF ACCIDENTS

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-207, to amend the Railway Act (Notice of Accidents).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, in introducing this bill, an act to amend the Railway Act, notice of railway accidents, I wish to explain its purpose very briefly. The purpose is to make it mandatory that all accidents to equipment or roadbed where the damage exceeds \$1,500 must be made public. All accidents reported to the Canadian Transport Commission and which are investigated by that commission will be made public. Nothing will be confidential. Up to this time the commission has not been obligated by law to make public those accidents it has investigated. I suggest that at this time an amendment of this type to the Railway Act is quite appropriate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can only explain the purpose of the bill. He cannot argue his case.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION—FURTHER PROPOSALS RESPECTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether it is still his target to have the government's proposed tax legislation effective for the year 1970. I ask