

Canada's position on the maintenance of peace, and the results are apparent to us today. Peace has not come yet and some light is being shed on the situation.

But considering the information published in the *New York Times* and the clumsy attempt made by the government to justify its actions, I believe that it is essential that the government agree to have those who have had some real part in this, together with Mr. Seaborn, appear before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

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[English]

GRAIN

WHEAT—TABLING OF PRESS RELEASE ON FINAL PAYMENT FOR 1969-70 CROP YEAR

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, under Standing Order 41(2), copies in both official languages of a press release of the Canadian Wheat Board outlining the final payment to Canadian wheat producers during the crop year 1969-70.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TABLING OF COMMUNIQUÉ RESPECTING AUTOMOBILE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table, in both official languages, a release on the regulations on assistance to automotive products manufacturers.

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[English]

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING RIGHT OF PUBLIC TO INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-250, respecting the right of the public to information concerning the public business.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, this bill concerns the right of the public to be adequately informed about public business and seeks to inhibit attempts by government to hide incompetence and arrogance behind a wall of secrecy. The bill provides, very simply, that Canadians who are refused access to the records of public business may apply for a court order and, if that court order is not complied with, that there may be a penalty of up to five years in jail.

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

24171—11½

Inquiries of the Ministry ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING TREND FOR FIRST FIVE MONTHS—YEAR-END OBJECTIVE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the seasonally adjusted unemployment figures for the first five months of this year being 6.2 per cent, 6.2 per cent, 6 per cent, 6.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether, in the view of the government, this constitutes a satisfactory downward trend in the rate of unemployment, particularly in view of the fact that actual unemployment for the month of May, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was 30,000 above a year ago and some 157,000 above the same period two years ago?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are, of course, concerned about the level of unemployment. I have stated that I believe there will be a downward trend this year. Incidentally, in the month of May new employment involving 347,000 new jobs was the highest since the labour force survey started. The decrease in unemployment of 116,000 in May is the largest decrease in any May since 1963.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of these, to the minister, very satisfactory trends, would he indicate to the House what the objective of the government is regarding the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment to be achieved by the end of the year?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the objective of this government is that ultimately everyone who is looking for a job will be able to find one.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether the forecasts being made by the government in respect of improved employment are being made by the same persons who a year ago forecast that the government would have a surplus of some \$300 million whereas in fact there is a deficit of \$400 million?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the supplementary question in that form is argumentative.

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, while the improvement in the figures will be welcomed I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he has examined the statement made by a study group of the Economic Council of Canada that the unemployment figures may be somewhat misleading because in times of high unemployment people do not enter the labour force and therefore do not show up as statistics, and has he examined whether the government's policy of encouraging young people to travel throughout Canada has had the effect of them not appearing in the unemployment statistics?

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister could advise the