

for unanimous consent that it be accepted. The matter of urgent and pressing necessity concerns a particular company, Wholesale Homes Limited. This company, which has either had payments made to it by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion or is in receipt of an offer to make payments, attempted to coerce its employees to work two particular days without pay and then issued each of them a notice under date of September 24 telling each employee that his employment with that particular firm would be terminated on Friday, October 1, 1971. I request, therefore, seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), consent to move the following motion:

That the subject matter of payments of money and any offer of payment by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to Wholesale Homes Limited of Blind River, Ontario, the use to which such money was or may be put, and the employment practices of the said company be referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members know that this motion can be put only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DESIGNATION OF PLACENTIA, NFLD. AS SPECIAL AREA—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask unanimous consent of the House to present a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. This matter concerns the desperate social and economic conditions prevailing in the Placentia area of Newfoundland where unemployment is now near 70 per cent.

• (2:20 p.m.)

The chief cause of the problem is the phasedown of the United States naval base at Argentia, also the government's obvious reluctance to deal effectively with the problems resulting therefrom. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That this House urge the government to take immediate steps to designate the Placentia area as a special area under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and that the government immediately undertake a crash program to alleviate the situation in that area.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair must inquire whether there is unanimous consent to the putting of the motion.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.

Questions

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*ROBIN AUSTIN AND COMPANY LIMITED—DENIAL OF RIGHT TO OBTAIN SUGAR

Question No. 1,547—**Mr. Southam:**

Has the government received complaints from Robin Austin of Robin Austin and Company Limited of Montreal, Quebec, and from his attorney, John Fetherstonough to the effect that his firm has been denied the right since 1965 to obtain sugar and, if so (a) what action has the government taken to investigate the complaints (b) what remedial action has been taken (c) what is the basis of the denial?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The government has received a number of communications from Robin Austin and John Fetherstonough, Q.C., concerning sugar. (a) An inquiry has been commenced pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of the Combines Investigation Act. (b) and (c) See answer to (a).

CANADA PENSION PLAN—PROCESSING OF MEDICAL CASES

Question No. 1,620—**Mr. Fairweather:**

1. How long does it take to process medical cases under the Canada Pension Plan?

2. Are district offices of the Department of National Health and Welfare advising applicants that cases may take up to six months to process?

3. Are procedures being studied with a view to decreasing waiting periods?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. It is difficult to give a precise answer since the processing time varies considerably, depending on the circumstances of each case. Every effort is made to obtain the essential information, including medical reports, as quickly as possible.

2. In cases where delay is anticipated, applicants are so advised.

3. Yes.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND RUNWAYS, COLD LAKE

Question No. 1,627—**Mr. Rowland:**

1. Is a new runway being constructed at CFB Cold Lake or are old runways being extended and, if so, what is the total cost of the project?

2. What has been the cost of (a) refurbishing (b) renting (c) constructing accommodation for the additional servicemen and their dependants appointed to CFB Cold Lake?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): 1. No, however normal maintenance work is being done on existing runways and taxiways at an estimated cost of \$495,000.

2. No additional accommodation has been provided for servicemen and their dependants.