

Mr. Martin (Essex East), from his place in the House, asked leave under Standing Order 26 to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, and stated the subject to be: "the addition of 165,000 persons to the ranks of the unemployed in the past month".

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I need not hear the honourable the Minister because I am not prepared to accept the proposition that the increase in numbers has altered the case. The honourable Member has asked me to distinguish the over-all problem of unemployment and the problem which arises from a substantial increase in one month's unemployed as reported, but in view of the course of this session, which was called for the indicated purpose of dealing with the over-all problem of unemployment, it does not seem to me that the House would be warranted in following the honourable Member's suggestion when so much of its direct attention in this session has been devoted to this specific problem, regardless of its proportions or whether it has increased to 10 per cent from 5 per cent or whatever the figures may be.

The session has largely been devoted and presumably will be devoted to that specific problem. With regret, then, I must inform the honourable Member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) that I do not accept the distinction.

And the honourable Member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Regier) having stated that he wished to appeal to the House from the decision of Mr. Speaker;

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been well established that the ruling is not on a point of order and that there is no appeal.

Whereupon the honourable Member for Burnaby-Coquitlam stated that he appealed to the House from Mr. Speaker's first decision that there is no right of appeal in this connection;

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member knows, of course, that the House is master of its own procedure and it is the duty of the Chair to carry out the orders and practices which the House has approved. The precedent is clear. As stated by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton), there was an attempt made at one stage to see in the refusal of an appeal a point of order in itself and to appeal that point of order, but the House by its decision denied that that was so, and that stands until the House orders to the contrary. Therefore, I cannot accept the honourable Member's appeal on the basis that there is no appeal.

On motion of Mr. Bourget, seconded by Mr. Denis, it was ordered,—That there be laid before this House a copy of all contracts and agreements entered into by the Federal Government and the Province of Quebec with respect to the Trans-Canada Highway, together with copies of all riders and schedules pertaining thereto. (**Notice of Motion No. 44*).

Mr. Pickersgill for Mr. McIlraith, seconded by Mr. Bourget, moved,—That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General,