

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

unique dominion responsibility, such as this ferry service, which was one of the essential terms of confederation in our union with the dominion in 1873, should become a major contributor to unemployment, is utterly deplorable. I therefore appeal to the minister or his representative to see that special efforts are made to diminish the economic distress which this new blow will bring to our people.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, since receiving notice that this matter would be raised this evening, perhaps owing to the holiday we experienced difficulty in obtaining figures about the loss of employment complained of in the question raised this afternoon.

The question I have to answer is with respect to the reported drastic lay-offs on the ferry service between Borden and Tormentine. I was not apprised of the other questions that the hon. member for Queens was to raise this evening, about closure of airport

services and so on. I regret, as does the government, that the island suffered difficulty through unemployment in transportation services. I am sure, nevertheless, that the one incident complained of cannot be the major contributor to unemployment in Prince Edward Island. The information I have been able to obtain is that two ferries are operating between Borden and Tormentine, the *Prince Edward Island* and the *Abegweit*. Two men have been laid off on each ship, which means that one crew member per shift on each ship has been laid off.

This does not appear to constitute a serious problem. We have been assured by the Canadian National that the reduction of one man per shift in no way represents a hazard, nor will that lead to inefficiency in the ferry service. As a matter of fact, the contrary is true. The Canadian National are prepared to argue that this step will contribute significantly to the efficiency of the operation.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.
