

Farm Improvement Loans Act

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, in view of the comments you made yesterday I have had a chance to study this matter once again. The actual liability of the Crown is not affected by this bill. The liability of the Crown is established in sections 4 and 5 of the act, not in section 3. Therefore this bill, which amends section 3, does not impose a charge on the people, does not require a recommendation, and does not have to start in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for his generous comments. For a moment I thought I might be swayed by his approach. However, the Chair's natural virtue and humility took over, and I must tell the hon. member that I too have looked at the bill very closely and I have the same doubts that I had yesterday and before. As I indicated yesterday, the bill appears to be out of order in that it proposes an amendment to a financial provision in the Farm Improvement Loans Act. When the Farm Improvement Loans Act was amended in 1968, the recommendation of the Crown stated specifically that the maximum for any loan to a borrower under the provisions of the act would be \$25,000. The recommendation which accompanied the bill at that time read in part:

● (1410)

—to increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000 the maximum amount of any loan that may be made under the Act to a borrower together with any amount owing in respect of other guaranteed farm improvement loans;

Bill S-5 now proposes that the maximum of such loans be increased to \$40,000. An amendment to the same purport could not have been proposed when the preceding bill was under consideration in 1968.

It may be said that the proposal in Bill S-5 does not in itself propose a direct expenditure. It does, however, propose substantial additional liabilities on public moneys. Section 3 of Citation 246 of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition states in part as follows:

In relation to the standard thereby fixed, an amendment infringes the financial initiative of the Crown, not only if it increases the amount, but also if it extends the objects and purposes, or relaxes the conditions and qualifications expressed in the communication by which the Crown has demanded or recommended a charge.

Under similar circumstances in 1969, when a Senate bill containing financial provisions was before the House, the Chair stated as follows:

By allowing these financial provisions to remain in a public bill sent down from the Senate, the privileges of this House, in my opinion, have been infringed. Section (1) of Standing Order 62 which is explicit in that regard, reads as follows: "This House shall not adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to the House by a message from the Governor General in the session in which such vote, resolution, address or bill is proposed."

I must, therefore, come to the conclusion that the provision in Bill S-5 relating to the appropriation of public moneys does infringe the privileges of this House and that the bill should be laid aside. Therefore the notice for first reading of this bill will be removed from the order paper.

[Mr. Guay (St. Boniface) .]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

**COST OF LIVING INCREASE AND RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT
IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House under the provisions of Standing Order 26 to discuss a matter of national importance, namely, the inability of the government to cope with regional unemployment and national inflation—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillies: —as demonstrated by the increase over the past year in the cost of living figure of 7.2 per cent, and the rise in unemployment figures in the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Speaker, if the House is not willing to debate this motion this afternoon, assuming it is agreed to, because it wants to finish the housing bill, we would be quite prepared to debate it tomorrow or Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Don Valley has given the Chair due notice of his intention to request leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing the matter that has been stated by him.

Putting aside for the moment that the proposed request may be contrary to that section of the Standing Order which prohibits the raising of more than one matter, the Chair has frequently stated in considering proposed motions to adjourn the House that the question that must be determined does not necessarily concern itself with the importance of the topic raised but rather with the requirement that the matter should be one that must be given urgent consideration under the Standing Order.

In considering that portion of the hon. member's proposition which deals with regional unemployment, I think it is fair for the Chair to say that while the topic is one which has been of concern to all members, it is also one of a continuing nature which, as such, does not seem to meet the requirements of Standing Order 26.

I might say that my real difficulty is in the form of the proposal of the hon. member. The hon. member, when he proposed the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific matter, used the words: "the inability of the government to cope with regional unemployment and national inflation".

The reaction which those words evoked confirms my opinion that what the hon. member has proposed at this point is substantially, a non-confidence or censure motion. That is not the purpose of Standing Order 26. There are other procedures under our Standing Orders for non-confidence motions to be proposed for the consideration of the House and, with great respect to the hon. member and to the House, that is not, I suggest, a proper subject for debate under the terms of Standing Order 26. For this and other reasons I do not think the Chair would be allowed to put the hon. member's motion for the adjournment of the House under the terms of Standing Order 26.