

has just made he proposes an emergency debate on the policies of the government in respect of unemployment, or employment, as the case may be.

As hon. members know, there have been many occasions during the current session when hon. members have debated the government's economic policies and in particular the employment situation. In the circumstances, I do not think that the matter proposed for discussion relates to a genuine emergency calling for immediate and urgent consideration, as required by the Standing Order.

As the hon. member knows, the Standing Order also requires the Chair to take into account the opportunity of debate within a reasonable time by other means than an emergency debate. It seems to me that there will be many such opportunities and that there is a probability that the matter will be discussed within a reasonable time by other means.

The Chair must rule, therefore, that Standing Order 26 does not apply to the circumstances alluded to by the hon. member for Peace River.

WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES EXPRESSED BY MEMBER FOR DUVERNAVY

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I am a little fearful about moving this motion in view of your ruling, but I will none the less. I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the want of confidence in the government's economic policies raised by the former Minister of Communications in statements following his resignation from the cabinet.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for York South has also given the Chair notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26. With respect, I think I should suggest, as he has already gathered, that the comments just made by the Chair are in many ways applicable to the motion proposed by the hon. member.

The hon. member proposes a debate which is essentially a non-confidence motion. In this respect I would think his proposal is different from that of the hon. member for Peace River, but again I would not think that in itself makes it more justifiable under the terms of Standing Order 26.

As the hon. member knows, want of confidence motions are normally proposed for consideration by the House on the occasion of the Throne Speech debate, on budget debates, or in connection with supply motions. Since a budget debate can reasonably be anticipated within the very near future, and since there are still a considerable number of supply days available to hon. members between now and the end of the current supply period, I do not think the Chair would be justified in suggesting that an adjournment motion ought to be entertained for the purpose of a debate which would be essentially a non-confidence motion.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

As hon. members know, I do not normally like referring to the fact that these supply motions are still available to hon. members, but it may be that we have just about reached that point in our proceedings where it becomes difficult for the Chair not to take into account the fact that between now and the end of the current supply period there are 13 supply motions available to hon. members.

I have also indicated the possibility of a budget debate. The Chair has no special knowledge that other hon. members who are not members of the government do not have, but I have to rely on some of the suggestions or statements which have been made in this respect by the Minister of Finance.

For these reasons I would not think it would be in order to accept this motion under Standing Order 26 for debate today.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

FINANCE

LEVEL OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—EFFECT ON EXPORTS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question relating to the level of the Canadian dollar as it is now almost a year since he announced the floating of the dollar. I do not think it is at all argumentative to suggest that this has had serious consequences for our exports, particularly of manufactured goods. Is it the minister's policy to let nature take its course with respect to the level of the dollar or does he intend to announce a policy regarding the level of the dollar in relation to other currencies?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, any statement regarding the repegging of the Canadian dollar would, of course, be made in the normal manner.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, may I remind the minister that he has been saying this for nearly a year. While I understand his position, I should like to ask whether in the near future the House can expect a statement of government policy by the minister regarding the Canadian dollar in order that hon. members and the country, particularly people in business, will have some indication as to what the aim of the government is? Will he be making such a statement?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend can normally expect me to make comments on this when I make a budget speech in the House.

**Mr. Stanfield:** When may we expect the minister's budget speech, and will the minister give the assurance that in the course of his speech he will make a statement as to the aim and policy of the government in respect of the level of the Canadian dollar?

**Mr. Benson:** I do not think my hon. friend can expect a budget speech this month. When I do make the budget speech, presumably next month, I will be making comments on this very important matter.