

Mr. Lundrigan: I am touching a very sensitive nerve centre across the way, apparently.

—and further, that the government immediately distribute a revised series of unemployment rates between 1954 and 1971 to enable this House and the public meaningfully to compare this new statistic with previous years' data.

• (2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I have to express serious reservations about the kind of statement that has been made by the hon. member. I appreciate that the matter he has raised is one of interest to all hon. members, but I suspect that perhaps the statement did go beyond the limitations imposed by the Standing Order. In any event, I now have to inquire whether there is unanimous consent under the terms of Standing Order 43.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity so the motion cannot be put.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS AND WELFARE ASSISTANCE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under Standing Order 43 which entitles me to make a brief statement in explanation. The figures released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate that there were 668,000 persons out of work in mid-January. Optimistic predictions that we have turned the corner and that the economy will improve later in the year are cold comfort to those who are walking the streets in the depths of winter looking for jobs. The immediate responsibility of this Parliament is to ease the privation and hardship these unemployed are now suffering. The least we can do is to provide them with the necessities of life during a crisis which is not of their making and for which the federal government must accept the major responsibility.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis):

That this House urges the government to take emergency steps to extend the eligibility period for unemployment insurance, to increase benefit payments and to relieve the pressure on municipal welfare budgets by increasing the federal government's contribution to 65 per cent under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands under the terms of Standing Order 43. The motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Since there is not unanimous consent the hon. member's motion cannot be put.

23786—66½

Unemployment Figures
GRAIN

ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move a motion under Standing Order 43. In view of the urgent and pressing necessity for at least a limited wheat agreement, and taking into consideration reports that there appears to be little chance of good will being arrived at between the wheat trading nations during the Geneva meetings which are due to end on February 19, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom):

That this House request that either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Manpower and Immigration responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board attend the meeting in Geneva this weekend in order to bring cabinet support to those that are now negotiating for Canada and that this House authorize leave of absence for such minister as required under Standing Order 5.

Mr. Speaker: This motion also requires unanimous consent before it can be put.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Since there is not unanimity the motion cannot be put.

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THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

February 11, 1971

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable D. C. Abbott, P.C., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, February 11, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,

Louis-Frémont Trudeau
Brigadier General

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—IMMEDIATE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does the minister now intend to take immediate additional steps to stimulate the Canadian economy in view of the fact that, according to the last