

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

TRIBUTE TO FRANK R. SCOTT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), I move:

That this House note the timely tribute that is being paid tonight and for the next two days in my home province of British Columbia, in Vancouver, to Frank R. Scott, a poet, lawyer and academic, born in the province of Quebec 81 years ago, who has constantly stood for human rights and justice and who has been a unifying influence in French and English Canada and who, in poetry, has dramatized our basic tensions in the Canadian tradition, and who in law, Madam Speaker, has expressed his strong social concerns.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I see that the House does want to pay tribute to this remarkable personality. However, this is not a motion that I can accept under Standing Order 43.

* * *

FISHERIES

REFERENCE OF WEST COAST REGULATIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, given the absence of objection from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. LeBlanc) to the new fisheries regulations for the west coast being considered in the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, on the basis of an order of reference, I am encouraged to believe that I shall obtain unanimous consent of the House to a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the adverse economic consequences of the new regulations on fisheries and the tourist industry on the west coast, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon):

That the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry be provided immediately with an order of reference to permit it to meet, examine the new west coast fisheries regulations, and report.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT PERIODS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. He will know that recent labour force figures show he now has one more economic accomplishment, namely, that more Canadians are staying out of work longer. The January figures showed that the number of Canadians unemployed for 14 weeks or longer was 18 per cent higher than last year. Most of those Canadians want to work. Will the minister tell us whether he intends any new measures to help them find jobs they can go to, jobs they can work at?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker, it is not my intention to bring in new measures at this stage. Personally I have been impressed by the strength shown in the Canadian employment picture in the last year. The rate of unemployment is moderating and is less than it was last month. In those circumstances I personally do not intend to bring in any further measures in addition to those announced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, which are directed toward skill training and adjustment programs. They seem to be the most appropriate response in present circumstances.

RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, the minister has now set another record. He has shown that not only is he prepared to have more Canadians out of work longer, but he is prepared to stand up in the House and boast about it. It is an absolutely unacceptable position for a Minister of Finance of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, perhaps I should address my supplementary to the Minister of State for Finance as it is of particular concern to the province of Quebec where the permanent unemployment problem is much more serious than anywhere else in Canada. The figures published by Statistics Canada show that the rate of permanent unemployment in Quebec is more than double the rate in the rest of Canada. Is there a program that the minister would recommend to the government to assist Quebecers in finding the jobs that they want today?

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition should know that this government has always taken into account the region-