

Canadian Flag
INDUSTRY

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.—REPORTED REMOVAL
OF PLANT TO U.S.

to the Leader of the Opposition made a remark and pointed at me and accused me of passing remarks, which is entirely false. I did not say a word. Perhaps the minister is mad at somebody and wants to blame anybody, but I did not say a word and I do want to take objection to that.

A second point I should like to raise is that he said I was not here in the House of Commons for a couple of weeks. I think that remark is quite unfair and unwarranted. Everybody knows that I underwent a surgical operation to my knee, as did the hon. member for Longueuil and the Minister of Forestry, who went to spend a holiday in Capri. I think the minister should withdraw his remark in this regard.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to, and in doing so I apologize to my hon. friend.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. No doubt this has occurred to the Chair but perhaps it should be cleared up. When the hon. member for Ontario raised this matter, he did so on a point of privilege. Therefore I suggest that it should not be regarded as a question within the terms of the thirty minute question period to which we are limited today. I have kept my timing of it, and it has taken about twelve minutes so far. I suggest that this should not cut off questions that are within the meaning of the thirty minute rule.

Mr. Speaker: According to the information given me by the Clerk Assistant the question period should have ended at 2.48 p.m., having begun at 2.18 p.m., it being limited under our provisional standing order to thirty minutes. Now, I am in the hands of the house, but I suggest that as we have serious business before the house we should get on with that business.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if Your Honour is going to hold the house to the time provided, then Your Honour ought to insist that questions of privilege such as that raised by the hon. member for Ontario should be raised prior to the question period, or after it, or the time ought to be subtracted.

Mr. Speaker: As a compromise solution, is it agreed that we devote five minutes more to the question period and then get on with business of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

20220—425

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. A. Webb (Hastings-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Because of the announcement today that C. W. Fisher, precision manufacturers of Peterborough, Ontario, are now moving their plant to the United States as a direct result of the 11 per cent tax on production machinery, would the minister advise the house what steps are being taken to prevent further movement of such industries to other countries and protect skilled labour in Canada?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I saw the article in this morning's paper. As I read the article it was suggested that one of the reasons for this move, and only one and certainly not the main reason, was some increased costs including increased taxation. My opinion is that the main and principal reason for the move is the level of the United States tariff. The United States duty on at least a large proportion of the parts which the company produces is about 35 per cent, and the company, as I understand it, has decided that it can open a branch or subsidiary company in the United States and compete in that country successfully. I commend them for their initiative.

Mr. Webb: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Would the minister not agree that over the past few months the hon. member for Peterborough has been making representation after representation, and that petitions and briefs have been sent to the minister to the effect that the company is awaiting some decision by the government so it can maintain its plant in Canada and thereby export this machinery to 11 or 13 foreign countries?

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the company is maintaining its plant in Canada and expects to expand it.

CANADIAN FLAG

OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DESIGN

The house resumed, from Friday, July 3, consideration of the motion by Mr. Pearson:

That the government be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to establish officially as the flag of Canada a flag embodying the emblem