

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 23, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

WELFARE

PROPOSED MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER AND TORONTO OFFICIALS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity I propose to ask the unanimous consent of the House to put a motion under Standing Order 43. The increasing unemployment in the province of Ontario and elsewhere in Canada has precipitated a welfare crisis in the city of Toronto caused by the burden of its own unemployed supplemented by the burden of an escalating influx of unemployed employables. The city of Toronto turns down no welfare applicant. The city of Toronto proposes a shared-cost emergency employment program designed to provide immediate employment. The city proposes that the federal government—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member immediately. I have pointed out to the House on a number of occasions, particularly at some time in the past week when a rather heated debate arose in connection with the application of Standing Order 43, that hon. members can move motions under Standing Order 43 to bring to the attention of the House matters which they consider to be of urgent importance but that their contribution to the submission of the matter to the House should be limited to the urgency aspect of the matter and that there should be no debate over the substance of the matter raised by the hon. member who proposes such a motion.

Mr. Ryan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just coming to the conclusion of my remarks. I thought a few words of preamble were necessary. The city of Toronto has requested an emergency meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss this proposal. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie):

That this House urges the Prime Minister to meet with the mayor and executive committee of the city of Toronto to discuss the proposed shared-cost emergency employment program and that the government give favourable consideration to sharing the cost of the program so that the plan can be put into effect without delay.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Spadina which requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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Some hon. Members: No.

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

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFF OF MASSEY-FERGUSON EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I should like to seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. The matter concerns the announcement today by Massey-Ferguson Limited of the imminent lay-off of 2,750 employees, affecting two Canadian cities.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles):

That this House regrets that the government has failed to provide an economic and psychological climate conducive to economic growth in Canada, with the consequential result of mushrooming unemployment, and that immediate initiatives be taken to restore confidence in the economy required for growth and development.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps I should mention that I have some doubt about the type of motion proposed by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. It seems to me that the motion is couched in the language of a non-confidence motion, and I doubt whether Standing Order 43 is in our Standing Orders for the purpose of proposing this type of motion. In any event, hon. members have heard the motion suggested by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate which of course requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFF OF MASSEY-FERGUSON EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): My question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Massey-Ferguson Limited of Canada announced today