

Small Craft Harbour Facilities

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I rise on a matter of the most urgent and pressing necessity. Some 67,000 Canadians cannot find employment in the Atlantic provinces, and the rate of unemployment in the province of Newfoundland has climbed to 18 per cent, three times the national average. In light of the obvious failure of Department of Regional Economic Expansion programs to achieve any decent increase in employment opportunities in this region, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie):

That in the opinion of this House the Prime Minister should immediately arrange a conference between the Atlantic provinces and the federal government on alternative economic opportunities for the region, and that the federal government outline its short and medium-term targets to reduce unemployment and to ameliorate the present disastrous situation in the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to the motion proposed by the hon. member for St. John's East?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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• (1410)

HARBOURS**SMALL CRAFT FACILITIES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, in light of the statement made last evening by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries to the effect that transfer of administration of small craft harbour facilities to his department from the Department of Transport will be completed before April 1, 1973, and in view of the fact that no proper parliamentary consideration has been given to policy changes in small craft harbour administration being instituted by the government, I ask leave of the House to move, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43:

That all matters pertaining to small craft harbour administration be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications for inquiry and report, and that the committee be instructed to report to the House not later than March 15, 1973.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Speaker.]

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

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**AMENDMENT TO RESTORE FORMER FORM OF BALLOT**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-137, to amend the Canada Elections Act (form of ballot).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the number of spoiled ballots in the last federal election was almost three times the number spoiled in the 1968 election, the purpose of this bill is to restore the earlier form of ballot and eliminate the small circle or the form used in the last election.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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CRIMINAL CODE**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONTROL OF WEAPONS AND FIREARMS**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-138, to amend the Criminal Code (control of weapons and firearms).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to prohibit the possession of all hand guns and all weapons which under the Criminal Code are at present described as restricted. The bill also requires the registration of all rifles and makes all offences dealing with guns indictable offences. The bill also seeks to prevent those who have a history of mental instability or a history of criminal offences from obtaining firearms of any kind, particularly rifles. The last provision is included to give the Solicitor General an opportunity to reintroduce the legislation that he had intended—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.