

Unemployment Conditions

is not an appropriate procedure for a continuing general problem which this undoubtedly is.

I have had a good deal of assistance from members on both sides of the house. The argument is that the figures released today have created an urgency of debate which did not exist, for example, when the house met on January 14 or in the intervening time when, as I recall the course of debate not only on the address in reply to the speech from the throne but at other opportunities, a great deal was said about unemployment in general. In fact if the pages of *Hansard* which deal with this general problem of unemployment were added together I think they would be found to have occupied a fair part of the time of the house to this point.

I do not want to work any hardship on any hon. member who disagrees with me, but in line with the view I have taken in the past I cannot do other than reject this as an appropriate motion to be interposed at this stage under standing order 26.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the government has felt and you have ruled that the urgency of this matter is not such as to justify debate at this time. We, of course, accept your ruling but on the understanding that there will be an opportunity for full debate on the item in the supplementary estimates concerning the winter works program.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Hees: You had your chance.

An hon. Member: You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Pickersgill: We have closure now.

Mr. Speaker: It is not for me to say. There will undoubtedly be opportunities.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that in interpreting standing order 26 Your Honour had in mind the indication given by the Prime Minister that there would be an opportunity to discuss this matter at the earliest possible date. Recognizing the ruling you have given on the question of urgency, the Leader of the Opposition has indicated what I think all of us had in our minds, namely that there was going to be an opportunity for discussion on Friday.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The opposition, through the Leader of the Opposition, has acquiesced in Your Honour's ruling on the clear understanding—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—that we would not be denied the opportunity on Friday, in discussing the winter works program, to discuss this whole problem.

Mr. Hees: You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member will permit my intervention, may I say that the question of the disposition of the business of the house will properly arise when we reach the orders of the day, and I suggest that the matter be taken up then.

Mr. Regier: I rise on a point of order. If the Conservatives are going to renege on their pledge—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has his choice. The hon. member has not raised a point of order. What I have indicated is that the question of the business of the house is not properly raised at this time. The next order of procedure is "Notices of motions for production of papers".

Mr. Winch: Speaking still to the other matter, Mr. Speaker, in view of what you have said—

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Winch:—I will appeal your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has perhaps considered that my decision was on a point of order, but it was not; and there is no appeal from the decision I have just made.

Mr. Regier: In that case I should like to appeal your decision that there is no appeal from your ruling. That is something that has been done before. I refer Your Honour to Beauchesne's fourth edition, page 91, where it is stated:

Mr. Ralston appealed from the "Speaker's refusal to permit an appeal from his decision."

Mr. Speaker: I refer the hon. member to the *Journals* of the House of Commons for 1955, page 858, where the same point was dealt with by the Speaker of the day, who said:

In the future, whenever I make a ruling to the effect that the motion should not be accepted because it is not in order or is not of urgent public importance—that is that there is no urgency of debate—I will not grant an appeal from my decision that there is no appeal.

I am following precedent with respect to that matter. The next order of business is "Notices of motions for the production of papers".

Hon. Leon Balcer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to revert to orders for returns?

Some hon. Members: No.