

Labour Conditions

is subject to certain precisions, and I wonder if the honourable member would like to indicate to what extent, in his opinion, there is urgency of debate.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to tell the house how the citizens of the eastern townships feel about the urgency of the debate.

I have here a letter from the secretary treasurer of the municipality of Coaticook and I would like to read some parts of it:

In the absence of Mr. Dumont who is at home sick, I have been instructed by the council to send you a copy of a letter addressed to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa about the shutdown of the Penmans Ltd. plant in Coaticook which leaves 225 heads of families out of work—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member must give as briefly as possible his arguments in favour of having a debate today instead of later this week or even next week. It is on that particular point that his remarks must bear at this time.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I have many other arguments. For instance, the newspaper *La Tribune* in the eastern townships published a score of articles on that subject. In fact, they were published in the following issues: Monday, September 16, page 16; Wednesday, September 18, page 20, Thursday, September 19, pages 1 and 9, Friday, September 20, pages 1 and 2, Thursday, September 26, page 2; Tuesday, October 1, page 2, Wednesday, October 2, page 2, Thursday, October 3, pages 2 and 7, Saturday, October 5, page 4, and Tuesday, October 8, page 5.

At this point, I want to quote that of September 20—

Mr. Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member and remind him once again that he must, immediately and as briefly as possible, point out to the Chair why he believes that a debate must be held today, and why we should adjourn the business of the house this very day for the purpose of discussing the situation he has just drawn to our attention.

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, it would take too long to describe to the house in detail at this time the situation in the eastern townships. It has been described in all the newspapers of the area and it prevails not only in the town of Coaticook, but in East Angus, Windsor Millet and many other towns in the eastern townships.

We are raising the question because the problem is not a local one concerning one municipality, but a general one concerning the economy of the whole area. That is why we are asking for an adjournment of the business of the house in order to allow us to give details to the hon. members.

Mr. Speaker: Having listened to the hon. member for Compton and to the arguments which the hon. member for Shefford has just submitted I think I am now ready to make a ruling on this motion.

I must remind the hon. members of the provisions of citation 100 (8) of *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms* and I quote:

I do not think that, under the standing orders of 1882, a motion or a subject of this kind, having such a wide scope, was ever contemplated. What I think was contemplated, was an occurrence of some sudden emergency—

The hon. member would like us to adjourn in order to consider a situation which in his own terms has been going on for some time. The hon. member for Shefford referred to a general crisis rather than to a specific problem. Under the circumstances, I regretfully believe that it is not possible to accept the motion of the hon. member for Compton. Besides, I know that during the next few days, there will be some general debates in this house and the hon. members for Compton and Shefford will have the opportunity to let us know their views on this important problem.

[*English*]

EXTERNAL AID**NIGERIA—PROVISION OF CANADIAN HERCULES AIRCRAFT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I preface my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs by welcoming him back to the house. We are not only pleased because of his presence here but because we have been concerned about the Prime Minister, who has been labouring with unnecessary burdens during the question period in the last few days.

Would the minister please tell the house when he expects the first Hercules aircraft to be loaned to the Red Cross to leave for Nigeria, specifically Fernando Po and Sao Tome?