

WATER RESOURCES

LONG HARBOUR, NFLD.—INVESTIGATION OF WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether he can inform the house about what steps are being taken to investigate evidence of a serious pollution problem in the waters around Long Harbour, Newfoundland, where a quantity of dead fish have been found floating near the beaches?

Mr. Speaker: It is difficult to decide from here how urgent this question is. I would think perhaps it might wait until the hour of adjournment.

Mr. Carter: It is very important to the fish, Mr. Speaker.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: Before calling orders of the day, I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-25, an act to amend the Export and Import Permits Act, to which the concurrence of this house is desired.

● (3:30 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

FIRST ALLOTTED DAY—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—ALLEGED FAILURE TO PRESENT ECONOMIC PROGRAMS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this house regrets that the government is not presenting programs to achieve a rate of economic growth which will reduce unemployment and also ensure that the economy will be able to absorb the large number of new entrants into the labour force this year.

Mr. Speaker: Before the Leader of the Opposition is allowed to proceed with his motion, may I mention that I have had the opportunity, with the co-operation of the hon. gentleman, to consider the proposed motion. I should like now to make the following comments for the assistance of hon. members. Let me draw the attention of the house to the wording of this proposed motion in view of previous decisions of the house during the current session.

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Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment

I specifically refer to a subamendment moved by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) during the address in reply to the speech from the throne, which motion was decided in the negative on December 17, 1968.

Hon. members will recall that on that occasion the Leader of the Opposition had moved an amendment to the effect that the government had refused to recognize or respond to Canada's current and urgent economic and social problems and had failed to provide parliament with an agenda of priorities to define and implement the just society. Thereupon, the hon. member for York South proposed a subamendment to include the question of housing, urban development, unemployment and poverty.

There is a similarity between what is being proposed today and what was decided on September 17, 1968. I merely draw this to the attention of the house, not with the intention of refusing the motion proposed today but in order to caution hon. members that a problem does exist which perhaps they may wish to reflect upon when occasions arise to move motions of non-confidence and set forth grievances under our new rules.

Supply motions should relate to specific matters and should not be an effort to cover a multitude of subjects in one motion. Amendments, of course, should be strictly relevant to the main motion, and when the main motion is drawn in general terms it becomes exceedingly difficult to limit amendments that may be proposed.

I should point out to hon. members that in the course of an ordinary session about 40 days will be provided for the moving of non-confidence motions or the raising of grievances against the government by opposition members, according to the new rules of the house. I need not expand on that except to say that as this session progresses it will become very difficult to draft motions which will not violate the well established rule to which I have referred.

Having drawn this problem to the attention of hon. members, I will now put the motion to the house. Mr. Stanfield, seconded by Mr. MacEwan, moved:

That this house regrets that the government is not presenting programs to achieve a rate of economic growth which will reduce unemployment and also ensure that the economy will be able to absorb the large number of new entrants into the labour force this year.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, this is the first of the so-called opposition days provided un-