

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 7, 1980

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1105)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

CALL FOR STEPS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, since the budget was introduced the prime interest rate at Canadian banks has risen to 14 per cent. The dollar has dropped to its lowest level in relation to the American dollar in over a year, despite massive government intervention in the money markets. There is despair in the stock market as investors sell Canadian issues to take advantage of better opportunities in the United States. Therefore, as a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That the government take immediate steps to restore some confidence in the Canadian economy and reverse its ill-conceived economic measures set out in the budget.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CALL FOR BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, in light of your ruling yesterday, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House call on the government to announce today its intention to bring in a resolution which would authorize the proceedings of the Special Joint Committee on the constitution to be covered by both radio and television.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

FLEXIBILITY IN APPLICATION OF MATERNITY BENEFITS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In light of the commitment of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) to amend the so-called magic ten rule, which presently operates as a prerequisite to qualify for maternity benefits under unemployment insurance, and in light of the demeaning effect of this rule and its rigid application, as seen in the case of Mrs. Katherine Edwards of Kitchener, Waterloo, who has been denied maternity benefits because she is 53 minutes short of the mandatory ten-week insurable employment period—a decision taken without regard for the significant overtime she worked—I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn):

That this House asks the minister to instruct his officials to be flexible and sensitive in such borderline cases until changes to maternity benefit legislation are enacted, as promised.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ENERGY

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES TO EXPAND USE OF NATURAL GAS FACILITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the fact that there is a drastic need to reduce the consumption of oil in this country, and in light of the fact that the government is apparently eager to encourage Canadian home owners and businesses to switch from oil-fired furnaces to gas, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Ellis):

That the government give serious consideration to providing financial assistance to municipalities and/or gas companies to allow for the expansion of gas