

*Energy*  
**HOUSING**

MONTREAL—SUGGESTION FUNDS BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT—MOTION UNDER  
S.O. 43

**Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I request the unanimous consent of the House to discuss an urgent and important matter.

Since 40 per cent of construction workers are unemployed in Montreal and considering that the housing sector in that area has reached a critical point and that it is urgent to find solutions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro):

That the government grant as soon as possible the funds available for the Montreal region to undertake public works and urban renovations, in order to relieve the unemployment which affects that area.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, 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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[English]

**ENERGY**

REQUEST FOR MORE RIGOROUS SAFETY STANDARDS FOR  
OFFSHORE DRILLING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development just recently released a report recommending the establishment of minimum training standards for workers on offshore oil platforms and requested the member countries of OECD to ensure the best possible safety standards are applied on offshore rigs to prevent injuries and oil spills, and in view of the fact that there have been 80 deaths in connection with attempts to retrieve oil from the North Sea and that the potential for such may be high in the Beaufort Sea, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth):

That Canada immediately take a lead in establishing more rigorous standards and support early actions on this important OECD recommendation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 43 the presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

MEASURES TO CONTROL INFLATION AND DEAL WITH  
UNEMPLOYMENT—POSSIBILITY OF NEW METHODS OF  
FORECASTING

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, this week once more Canadians have been informed of record unemployment and record inflation levels. The consumer price index released today shows a year-end inflation rate from April 1976 to April 1977 of 7.6 per cent. The Minister of Finance said one and one-half months ago that the government would meet the 6 per cent annual inflation guideline. Two weeks ago he upped it to 7 per cent, and with today's announcement we see that for the first four months of 1977 Canadians are faced with an annual inflation rate now of 11 per cent. In view of the absolute bankruptcy of government policies, what new measures, if any, can the Canadian people and this House expect from the government? Will the government now abandon its inflation rate forecasting procedures which are obviously beyond a joke.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I saw the report on the price increase. We still think that the goal set by the hon. Minister of Finance will be met by the end of the year.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Mr. Speaker, may I put a further supplementary question to the minister. In so far as the minister announced a target of 6 per cent a month and a half ago, then two weeks ago it was 7 per cent and now it is 11 per cent, may I ask the minister how he can make such a statement and can he inform the House that the government will now abandon its forecasting procedures and announce new methods?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, if you look carefully at the statistics published today you can see a trend that will lead to the goal set by the Minister of Finance.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL FOOD POLICY

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question and it is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Since the figures announced today largely involve an excessive increase in food prices with terrible effects on the many people unemployed and low-income Canadians, may I ask when the minister intends to announce to the House a precise and coordinated national food program?

**Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member correctly identifies, a large part of the increase was occasioned by an increase in food prices but a large part of that increase was occasioned by