

[Translation]

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

REQUEST THAT HOUSE RECOGNIZE EXCELLENT CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Madam Speaker, the XXII Commonwealth Games were held in Brisbane, Australia, this year from September 30 to October 10. More than 250 athletes from all parts of Canada took part in the games and some members of the Canadian team set Commonwealth records and also several world records.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I move, seconded by the members for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid) and Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose):

That the House acknowledge and express its admiration for the courage, discipline and efforts displayed by Canadian athletes during the XXII Commonwealth Games, and that the members of this House congratulate them and wish them all every success in their pursuit of excellence.

Madam Speaker: The House may wish to show its appreciation with some applause.

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[English]

HOUSING

APPLICATION OF CANADIAN HOME OWNERSHIP STIMULATION PROGRAM TO NORTHERN REGIONS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Last Wednesday the Finance Minister announced that the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Program would be extended four months to April 30, 1983, in order to stimulate the construction of new homes in Canada. In my riding in northern Ontario and in all the northern portions of this country, however, it is impossible to begin construction of a new home between November 15 and May 15 because the frost in the ground prevents excavation and pouring of foundations. Northern residents will, therefore, not be able to take full advantage of this program, and its intention of stimulating the housing industry will not be achieved to the fullest potential. Therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That this House urge the Government to extend the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Program a further month to allow northern residents the opportunity to take advantage of the program and to stimulate the housing industry to the fullest possible extent.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

CANADA SAVINGS BONDS

PURCHASES MADE ON MONTHLY SAVING PLAN

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a most important and urgent problem. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kootenay East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker):

That this House urge the Minister of Finance to rescind his directive of October 7 restricting certain persons from purchasing Canada Savings Bonds on the monthly saving plan for bond purchases of less than \$1,000.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Madam Speaker: I wish to draw the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of a delegation of Italian parliamentarians, headed by Deputy Dominico Susi.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It is widely recognized that improved productivity is the means to improved efficiency, increased jobs, lower inflation, and a better competitive position, which obviously will lead to increased exports. Why did the Minister not direct any Government resources toward improving productivity in the country, in his recent budgetary statement?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I made an economic statement last week. I indicated that I was taking steps to improve the situation in the business sector in particular by not proceeding with a number of taxes and by removing certain administrative burdens from the private sector so they could proceed with all the energy they have to improve economic conditions in Canada at the present time. I think that will lead to increased productivity.

Unfortunately, firms have had to lay off many people in the current circumstances. As the Hon. Member also knows, they