

Order 43, concerning the forthcoming Floralie International Festival of Flowers being hosted jointly by the city of Montreal and the government of Quebec this weekend.

Considering that the federal government, which issued the invitations to the festival, has invited South Africa, considering that as a result the government of Cameroon is seriously thinking of withdrawing from the festival, and considering that the Canadian government has in the past gone on record as condemning apartheid in South Africa, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the federal government issue a statement to the effect that, notwithstanding its invitation to South Africa to attend the Floralie International Festival in Montreal this weekend, it remains committed to its policy of opposing apartheid in South Africa.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion can only be presented with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1415)

INCOME TAX ACT

AMENDMENTS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Huron-Bruce): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity affecting small businesses throughout Canada.

Given the fact that the small business development bond provisions introduced in the December budget were defeated in this House and, since the present government has not yet proved the sincerity of its intentions, after giving notice in the economic statement of April 21 that it would reintroduce these provisions, potential purchasers of these bonds are understandably reluctant to invest in them and small businesses are uncertain how to issue them, and since the situation which these bonds were intended to address was urgent and pressing when the last government introduced them, and remains so, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise):

That this House instruct the Minister of Finance to introduce forthwith amendments to the Income Tax Act that will provide a legislated basis to the small business development bond provisions introduced by the last government and presented again by the present government in its April 21 notice of ways and means motion to amend the Income Tax Act.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

APPLICATIONS FOR MONTREAL-HALIFAX NATURAL GAS PIPELINE—REPORT THEREON

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I wonder if the minister can tell the House whether he has received a report, or any other information, from the National Energy Board relating to applications for a natural gas pipeline from Montreal to Halifax.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, such a report has been received and it will be considered by cabinet tomorrow morning.

[English]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, can the minister tell us whether the government is considering a recommendation to construct a Q and M line to Quebec City only at this time, consequently leaving the maritime provinces without the benefits of secure access to western Canadian gas, and without the benefits of a significant pipeline construction project and the jobs that go with it?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, the report will be considered by cabinet tomorrow, and as soon as cabinet makes a decision I hope the report will be made public and the cabinet decision also. The Leader of the Opposition will then be able to reach his own conclusions as to the content of the report and the nature of the cabinet decision.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, could we have a commitment now from the Minister of Energy that any announcement regarding government policy on a gas pipeline to or beyond Quebec City will be made here in the House of Commons before it is made elsewhere?

Mr. Lalonde: No, Madam Speaker, but I will be in the House tomorrow afternoon and I will be very happy to answer any questions. Moreover, the estimates are before the House and I will be quite happy to appear before the Committee of the Whole and answer any question on the subject once the decision has been made.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, just to be clear on this, the minister is telling the House categorically that he intends to make this announcement of a major policy decision outside the House of Commons. Will he tell us how he can justify that? Will he not reconsider and respect the rights of Parliament and recognize his obligation to make an announcement of that kind here in the Parliament of Canada and not at some other forum?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, I will be here for question period, I will be here for the estimates, and I will be very happy to answer any questions that may be asked.