

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 19, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE OF ALLEGED FRAUDS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cossitt: —I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie):

That the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Solicitor General make available immediately full details of a recent investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police into the infiltration of organized crime into the Unemployment Insurance Commission and, specifically, that the House be told of companies existing on paper only making use of valid names and social insurance numbers and reportedly engaging in the fraudulent collection of a vast number of claims each week from the Ottawa UIC office and possibly other UIC offices amounting to thousands of dollars; and, finally, that full details be made public of fraud charges laid by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under section 338 of the Criminal Code in connection with this matter during the last several days against Gordon Gunn, former employee of the Unemployment Insurance Commission residing at 1435 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, and when further charges will be laid.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I know that all hon. members, regardless of their sentiments in respect of this particular motion, will know that by moving it the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt) shows that he has made a complete recovery. We rejoice.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Notwithstanding that expression of sentiment, the motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, can be presented to the House only if there is unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE STUDY OF LEGAL ADVICE GIVEN MINISTER WHEN NEGOTIATING LOCKHEED CONTRACT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 and commend the urgency of this matter. In view of the decision yesterday by this government to accept a loss to the Canadian people of a minimum of \$16 million and possibly more over the Lockheed Orion negotiations, with nothing to show for it; the decision by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) to announce agreement in principle prior to approval by Treasury Board, thereby incurring such liability; and the decision of the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) to guarantee such loss by purchasing an extension of the option for \$16 million, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House refer this matter forthwith to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to determine what legal advice, if any, was given to the responsible ministers throughout the negotiations and, in particular, what legal advice, if any, was given prior to the announcement of approval in principle by the Minister of National Defence on November 27, 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Pursuant to Standing Order 43 the motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

SUGGESTED PAYMENT OF COMPENSATING DISCOUNT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I request the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion dealing with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering that for a few years the world price of cereals will continue to sustain rising food prices which are already subject to quite strong upward pressure, and that the final reports of the Food Prices Review Board and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture recognize that fact and both point out the need for taking immediate measures, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte):

That the House discuss right now the board's recommendation stating that the government should introduce grant programs for consumers to protect Canadians, and that the discussion consider our proposition of