

The Canadian Economy

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT POLICIES RESPECTING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have the honour to present a motion under Standing Order 43, subject to the unanimous consent of the House. The urgent and pressing necessity compelling the motion lies in the fact that, present unemployment-creating policies having failed to cope with inflation, there is an absolute requirement for Canadians to be informed as to the future intentions, if any, of the government in this regard. I would therefore ask unanimous consent to put the following motion:

That in order to restore confidence in the public and to apprise industry and labour of its policies and intentions with regard to establishing a predictable and suitable price structure, the government should forthwith indicate with clarity and precision its target in this connection and the steps it intends to take to achieve it.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). It requires unanimous consent of the House under Standing Order 43.

[English]

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.

* * *

FINANCE

SALARY OF MINISTER—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a motion which I should like to offer under Standing Order 43. May I say to hon. members opposite that before they get ready their chorus of no's they listen to the motion because I am sure they will agree with it. In view of certain objections raised by members of the Liberal party, in particular the stand taken by the hon. member for Cochrane to the effect that government funds should not be made available to persons not acting in the national interest, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch):

That the salary of the Minister of Finance be reduced to one dollar.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: This motion requires unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

INFLATION—INTRODUCTION OF WAGE AND PRICE GUIDELINES—USE OF MANDATORY WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement last night by the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission that "present moderation in inflation will not be enough, and some form of direct pressure on wage and price increases will be called for", is it the intention of the government, either itself or through the Prices and Incomes Commission, to announce in the immediate future price and wage guidelines to be adhered to by industry and labour, and is it also the intention of the government at the same time to announce that it is prepared to introduce mandatory price and wage controls if it becomes apparent that these guidelines are being ignored as they were a year ago?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that was a very complicated question. Perhaps I should deal with it piece by piece. It is not the government's intention to introduce wage and price guidelines at the present time. Circumstances may change, but this is not our present intention. As for mandatory wage and price controls, as has been said many times in the House, the government has been looking at contingency plans which might be necessary, but in view of the fact that we have been among the most successful countries in the world in controlling inflation I doubt very much whether they will be needed immediately.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: In view of the fact that the index of industrial production shows a marked drop this week, confirming the high and rising unemployment figures of which we were made aware a short time ago, does the government not believe that now is the time to start giving serious consideration, as the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission has indicated we should, to taking definite steps to face up to these twin problems of high unemployment and high inflation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

BUDGET ACTION TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY RATHER THAN INFLATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Following the submission by Professor Clarence Barber, Chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Manitoba and past chairman of the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery, to the Senate yesterday to the effect that we are losing \$5 billion in production annually because of the high level of unemployment, will the Acting Prime Minister assure