

*Export Development Corporation*

Standing Orders 15(5), 26(12) and 44 or when otherwise specified by any special order of this House. So I suggest that these points of order and these so-called questions of privilege which are now being made go against the right of members to present their bills or their motions at private members' business time. I say that we have been dealing with points of order or so-called questions of privilege which are strictly political and that we should now proceed immediately with private members' business.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. The question of privilege raised by the hon. member for St. John's East will be taken as notice and brought to the attention of Mr. Speaker. If that is agreeable to the hon. member, we will proceed now to private members' business.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan)—External Affairs—Imprisonment in Soviet Union of Anatoly Sharansky—Efforts to obtain release; the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes)—Export Development Corporation—Reason for financial support for Canadian Superior Oil to drill in Dominican Republic; the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Manpower—Lay-offs at Labrador linerboard mill—Government action to alleviate.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed with private members' business, in the sequence shown on the order paper of today namely notices of motions (papers), private bills, public bills.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO EDC FINANCING OF SUGAR COMPLEX IN REPUBLIC OF IVORY COAST

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Shall order No. 2, in the name of the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) stand?

**An hon. Member:** Stand.

[Mr. Pinard.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Stand at the request of the government.

**Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil)** moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence, notes, minutes of meetings, documents and agreements relating to the financing by the Export Development Corporation of a cane sugar complex in the Republic of the Ivory Coast to be built by Redpath Sugars Ltd.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the motion follows a reply to a question which I had on the order paper in October, 1976. It was answered just prior to Christmas, 1976. Originally, the motion was put on the order paper in February, 1977. It died in the last session and was repeated by me in this session. I should like to explain why the question was posed in the first place.

The annual Canadian consumption of sugar is approximately 100 pounds per person. Of this amount, something more than half is used by food manufacturers. World sugar production presently exceeds 80 million metric tons per annum, of which Canada consumes over two billion pounds of sugar per year and is dependent upon imported raw sugar for approximately 90 per cent of its needs.

With regard to imported sugar, approximately 800 million pounds per annum come from Australia, 600 million pounds per annum from South Africa, and 400 million pounds from Mauritius. I obtained this information from an answer tabled by the then minister of industry, trade and commerce.

The 1971 report of the Tariff Board relative to the investigation ordered by the then minister of finance respecting sugar reads in part as follows:

The price of refined cane sugar in Canada appears to be based primarily upon considerations not as closely related as is desirable to such factors as production costs and competitive pricing. It is based on formulae related to the London daily price for "free market" sugar adjusted by a variety of factors; this situation has the further characteristic that one company is the price leader and the others assume that the refiner's margin of the price leader is constant in the short run.

Resulting from the clamour over the price of sugar when there were sharp rises, a document entitled "Food Prices Review Board—Sugar Prices and Policies," dated July, 1974, was prepared. At page 6 it reads as follows:

There has been a strong trend by a number of countries to establish their own sugar industries, both growing and processing. As new developments in the technology of sugar-processing continue . . . it is expected that more countries will process raw sugar, either from beets or sugar cane.

The document continues, at page 32:

The Food Prices Review Board considered that the Canadian sugar policy . . . should be based upon a broader multilateral approach . . . In a world market where future supplies are likely to be much tighter, it would appear to be ironic for Canada to continue policies which put nearby sugar-exporting countries, such as Cuba and Brazil, at a disadvantage in selling supplies in the Canadian market . . .

● (1712)

In the face of expanding world demands and uncertain world supplies, Canada's sugar policies must not be confined by traditional attitudes or arrangements.