

Amnesty International

● (1112)

[English]

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAMREDUCTION IN MAXIMUM WAGE INCREASE—MOTION UNDER
S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) indicated in Oshawa recently that it would be wrong "to ask workers to take less than the increase in the cost of living", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House condemns the cruel unfairness and hypocrisy of last night's announced change in the controls program which will reduce to 6 per cent the maximum wage and salary increase permitted under the controls program at precisely the same time that increases in the cost of living are running at an excess of 8 per cent; such unfairness being totally repugnant to the Canadian sense of decency.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 can only be done with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONALCONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 43 on a matter of importance to our nation.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes):

That this House unanimously extend its congratulations to Amnesty International for having received the recent Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Speaker: The provisions of Standing Order 43 require the unanimous consent of the House for the presentation of such motion for debate. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFFS AT INCO—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that my question must affect a number of departments and ministers it must be directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the rather ruthless decision of the board of INCO metals limited communicated to the world yesterday—a decision, by the way which has rocked the metal production and mining industry of the world today—that over 4,000 families in Canada alone, spread through northern and southern Ontario and northern Manitoba which is going to have very tragic repercussions in this initial phase only in respect of this massive layoff at INCO, I should like to ask the Prime Minister when the government of Canada received notice of this decision and what is the government doing about it? Have they set up a special Cabinet committee? Who is on it? Why in the world are they waiting until next Tuesday before they get any public reaction to this momentous decision?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was informed of this very serious decision yesterday morning.

An hon. Member: For the first time?

Mr. Trudeau: I immediately conferred with the Minister of Employment and Immigration and officials, and ascertained that they were already proceeding to organize meetings with the INCO people in the Sudbury region and seeking to find alternative solutions to this very serious unemployment problem.

Mr. Lawrence: Come on, now. Mr. Speaker, surely this House and the country have the right to know what specifics the government of Canada is proposing in relation to a solution to a problem that in its initial phase only is going to have very tragic repercussions throughout Canada, not just northern Ontario or northern Manitoba but in the Niagara region as well. If the Prime Minister is unaware of what his ministers are doing or what the specifics are, let us hear from one of the many ministers who should be involved in this. What is the government of Canada proposing to do about this economic tragedy? Surely, at a time when the federal government had more notice of it than any provincial government and yet the provinces seem to be moving much faster on it, we should have more than a general evasive answer such as the Prime Minister has just given.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I gave the hon. member my answer a moment ago. The fact that I was informed yesterday morning does not mean my ministers had not been informed before that. They had met the night before with the INCO people. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Labour tells me that as long as two weeks ago he was discussing contingency measures with the INCO people.