

Oral Questions

found there an excellent opportunity to discuss how the provinces can cooperate to set up the national communications and broadcasting policy which is his major area of concern and to start the discussion on the tools and means needed to enable the provinces to meet their objectives. Unfortunately it will not be possible. However, we decided to hold the meeting anyway.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Will the minister advise whether prior to that conference she intends to lay before this House the next stage in the telecommunications legislation or does she intend to discuss that with her respective and responsible provincial ministers? If it is not in the legislative stage, does she intend to take to that conference new proposals and new initiatives in the whole field of telecommunications, in particular involving some of the jurisdictional problems?

[Translation]

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the legislation on communications will be tabled in the House so that I can lay it before the ministers who will be present at the meeting. It should be noted for the benefit of the House that this meeting is not a federal-provincial conference but a meeting of communications ministers set up as a forum in which views on a future communications policy will be exchanged.

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[English]

FINANCE

FUNDS FOR URBAN TRANSIT SYSTEMS—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF FUNDING OF SOUTH WEST TRANSIT STUDY FOR WINNIPEG

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. It has to do with the Toronto rebellion. In view of the uprising in his own caucus after his decision last week to renege on a campaign promise to supply funds for urban transit systems, is the minister now prepared to reconsider that decision and include it in the upcoming budget? It is a policy which Canadians considered to be serious rather than a hollow campaign promise.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): As I pointed out last week, Mr. Speaker, we have given an undertaking, indicated most recently by my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, with regard to restraint on federal expenditures and we intend to hold to that.

Mr. Whiteway: My supplementary question has to do with a study commissioned by and paid for in large part by the minister's department with the province of Manitoba and the city of Winnipeg a year ago. The minister will recognize it. It is called "South West Transit Study". In his announcement last week, the minister effectively killed that project, a project on which he asked for a tri-level study. Is the minister at least prepared to consider that one transit study and fund it rather than cut it off at the knees?

[Mrs. Sauvé.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is clearly in the class of a representation. Presenting reports from standing and special committees.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a point of order at this time. It is with regard to the statement made by the government House leader in response to questions from members on this side relating to the motion moved yesterday by the hon. member for St. John's East under Standing Order 43. In order that the government House leader can demonstrate the bona fides of the government in the interest of having a statement made by the House of Commons without any debate whatsoever, will the minister at this juncture move that we revert to motions under Standing Order 43 in order that the hon. member for St. John's East may now move the motion? This would give my hon. friend from St. John's East an opportunity to put forward a motion which would demonstrate that the House of Commons supports the position of the government with respect to this matter.

• (1500)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member raises this matter by way of a point of order. He realizes, I am sure, that it is one not totally within the authority of the President of the Privy Council, regardless of his extensive power and authority. The calling of motions pursuant to Standing Order 43 takes place prior to the question period, and any change in that arrangement should be made only with the unanimous consent of the House.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I simply want to ask, then, the permission of the House to revert to motions under Standing Order 43.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ANTI-INFLATION ACT

REFERENCE FROM AIB TO ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING KELLY, DOUGLAS AND CO.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table a reference, under the anti-inflation legislation, from the Anti-Inflation Board to the administrator with regard to Kelly, Douglas and Co.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following ques-