

Social Security

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of any such motion for debate pursuant to Standing Order 43 can be done only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS TO DISCUSS INDUSTRY PROBLEMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Considering the depressed state of the agricultural industry—for example, declining grain and commodity prices in many cases falling below the cost of production—the ever increasing cost of farm inputs, further aggravated by serious and adverse weather conditions, and the complete lack of government leadership, generally and particularly in the agricultural industry as demonstrated in the throne speech the day before yesterday, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence):

That the Minister of Agriculture immediately convene a meeting of the provincial ministers of agriculture to discuss all possible methods to alleviate these serious and pressing problems, such as a deferral of all payments of principal and interest on farm loans held by those producers experiencing harvest difficulties as a result of adverse weather conditions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I made some remarks yesterday about the use of Standing Order 43 during the throne speech debate. I must say that this kind of motion seems to be asking us to set aside the throne speech debate in order to debate the throne speech. I think that is an improper use of Standing Order 43 under the circumstances.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, and seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), I move:

That this House welcomes the assurance of the Minister of National Health and Welfare that the Minister of Public Works was not expressing government policy when he called for a curtailment with respect to family allowances and old age security, and this House calls on the government to extend these and other social programs as a means of distributing more equally the wealth that is produced by this nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker: The motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Schellenberger.]

ELECTIONS

SUGGESTION POLITICAL PROMISES IN CROWFOOT RIDING SHOULD HAVE CABINET APPROVAL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that political promises are being made in the province of Alberta to try to win one Liberal seat, namely, that of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Hamilton):

That all future promises be backed by cabinet approval since the people of Crowfoot lost faith in individual Liberal promises years ago.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

REFERENDUMS

TYPE AND SCOPE OF LEGISLATION PROPOSED

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who, perhaps to the surprise of his colleagues, referred in his speech in the House yesterday to a matter relating either to a referendum or to a plebiscite. There was some confusion in the language of the Prime Minister. He referred to a plebiscite, which allows an expression of opinion, and to a referendum, which has binding legal effect. I wonder if the Prime Minister can tell the House whether he is talking about a referendum or a plebiscite and what precisely he proposes? What is the general effect of the legislation he proposes to introduce to the House in that regard?

● (1112)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, what we have in mind is a referendum, and I think that what the province of Quebec has in mind is a plebiscite, accepting the distinction the Leader of the Opposition just made. We would introduce enabling legislation in this session if we could get the co-operation of opposition parties. I would want to make sure that it was brought in as a multipartisan bill. I would want to consult with the leaders of the opposition parties and, if possible, with the provincial premiers on this referendum legislation before it is actually brought before the House.

Mr. Clark: Since the Prime Minister is interested in consultation on this question, is it the intention of the government to have this legislation refer exclusively to one question, or does he propose enabling legislation which will apply to a wide range of questions including perhaps abortion, capital punish-