

The Canadian Economy

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

**REFERENCE OF ECONOMIC REVIEW TO COMMITTEE—
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion under Standing Order 43. My statement of explanation of this motion is very brief. The motion is made necessary by the fact that the Minister of Finance tabled on Tuesday a document entitled "Economic Review" which in the past preceded a budget so that its contents could be analysed and debated during the debate on the budget. This time that may not be possible because so far the minister has not indicated an intention to present a budget. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the document entitled "Economic Review" tabled by the Minister of Finance on Tuesday, April 25, be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs for study and report to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for York South under the terms of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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

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TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

On the order: Motions.

Mr. Skoberg:

That the First Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, presented to the House on Thursday, March 16, 1972, be concurred in.

He said: Mr. Speaker, if I may have unanimous consent to withdraw this motion I should like to do so. After all, the dates for the hearings in southwestern Ontario expired earlier in April and the motion will serve no useful purpose at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member to withdraw his motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

[Mr. Speaker.]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26**POWER****EFFECTS OF JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move under Standing Order 26 that the House do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration. The particular matter concerns the federal involvement in the James Bay hydroelectric development project of the province of Quebec and particularly (a) interference with and relocation of Indians; (b) altering the course of navigable waters protected under the Navigable Waters Protection Act, and (c) effects upon the total Canadian environment.

If leave is given, Mr. Speaker, I propose to move the foregoing motion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka has given the Chair the notice required by Standing Order 26 which has provided the Chair with an opportunity to give serious consideration to the hon. member's proposed motion.

The Standing Order sets out criteria which have to be taken into account in determining whether such a motion can be put. Specifically, the motion must relate to an important matter requiring urgent consideration. The numerous questions asked yesterday and during the last few days by members on both sides of the House, and the information given by the minister in reply to those inquiries, indicate that in the view of many members the problem is one which does require urgent consideration. Whether there might be some other opportunity for debate at an early date is difficult for the Chair to determine, particularly in light of current circumstances.

While I am not absolutely convinced that all the requirements of section 16 of the Standing Order have been met, because of the obvious importance of the matter and the equally obvious interest of so many members I am inclined to give the hon. member the benefit of the doubt. While I am disposed to grant the motion, I have to take into account the relative importance and urgency of the business which the government has called for consideration later today. The rules give the Chair some discretion in the timing of a debate under the Standing Order. I propose, therefore, to have consultations later and announce before five o'clock whether the debate should take place this evening at eight or tomorrow at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Subject to this reservation, the Chair will inquire whether the hon. member has leave to put this motion.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 9 of the Standing Order, the proposed motion will stand until either later today or tomorrow.