

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SPAIN—EXPRESSION OF SADNESS AND CONCERN OVER
KIDNAPPING OF MR. JAVIER RUPEREZ—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43.

Dr. Rafael Caldera, former President of Venezuela and presently President of the Interparliamentary Council of the Interparliamentary Union, has brought to my attention the fact that Mr. Javier Ruperez, a member of the Lower Spanish House and Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Union of the Democratic Centre, has been kidnapped by terrorists. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme):

That this House views with sadness and concern the kidnapping of Mr. Javier Ruperez, a member of the Lower Spanish House and Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Union of the Democratic Centre, a staunch defender of human rights, and expresses its earnest hope for his immediate release.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be introduced for debate at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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BYELECTIONS

APPOINTMENTS TO SENATE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a motion of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering the results of yesterday's byelections, despite the Prime Minister's personal involvement in them, and considering the fact that he may feel personally responsible for his defeated candidates, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail):

That the Prime Minister assure this House that he will not fill up the other place with these or any other defeated Tory candidates.

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[Translation]

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

GONCOURT PRIZE—SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT
CONGRATULATE ANTONINE MAILLET—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 43 and ask for the unanimous consent of the House to discuss a motion relating to a current and urgent matter, although it is not put in the same words as the motion of the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier).

Given the fact that for the first time in its history the famous Goncourt prize for literary excellence has been award-

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ed to an author who is not only a Canadian but also an Acadian, and that the laureate, Mrs. Antonine Maillet, author of *Pélagie-la-Charette*, contributes through her writings to the dissemination of Acadian culture throughout the world, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Mercier (Mrs. Her-vieux-Payette) and the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier):

That the Secretary of State for Canada, the foremost patron of assistance programs for official language minorities, formally commit himself to congratulating Mrs. Maillet on behalf of all hon. members and to doubling his efforts to encourage all Canadians, particularly those who are part of a linguistic minority, to achieve the same level of excellence as Mrs. Maillet.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

HIGH INTEREST RATES—EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Arthur Phillips (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. It is quite clear from the results of yesterday's byelections that not only do we have some potential new senators, but that considerable public concern was expressed over the government's record. We noticed, also, from this morning's *Globe and Mail* that considerable public concern was expressed in the government caucus about the government's record, particularly with respect to interest rates, the reversal of the policy on interest rates and the effect on small business.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is this: these are very difficult times for small business, and in view of the fact that the minister for small business—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I must ask the hon. member to put his question.

Mr. Phillips: In view of the fact that the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry has a long list of responsibilities, including metric conversion, Crown corporations—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member must realize that he is now on the third preamble. I think he had better put the question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Phillips: My question is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister tell us what happened to the Conservative promise to have a full-time small business secretariat fighting for the interests of small business in this country in these difficult times?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!