

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 22, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

[English]

NEW MEMBERS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the chief electoral officer a certificate of the election and return of Jack Burghardt, Esquire, member for the electoral district of London West; and also a certificate of the election and return of W. Bennett Campbell, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Cardigan.

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NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Jack Burghardt, Esquire, member for the electoral district of London West, introduced by Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and Hon. Herb Gray.

[Translation]

Bennett Campbell, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Cardigan, introduced by Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and Mr. Henderson.

Some hon. Members: More, more!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE ECONOMY

CALL FOR REVIEW OF INTEREST RATE POLICY BY STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Madam Speaker, I rise to propose a serious motion having to do with the economy. If the government is serious about the plight of the economy, I hope that it will approve this motion. The Bank of Canada has been influential in maintaining interest rates at such high levels that small businesses, consumers, farmers and the whole Canadian economy, is suffering drastically. I therefore propose to move a motion, seconded by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) which is the exact same motion as was moved by the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) when he was in opposition and the Bank of Canada rate was 13 per cent as opposed to the 17.75 per cent it is now. I therefore move:

That this House immediately order its Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs to undertake an immediate review of the interest rate policy of this government and the Bank of Canada, and that for this purpose the Governor of the Bank and the Minister of Finance appear before it to explain their actions and what they will be doing to solve the problems which the Governor of the Bank himself said, regarding interest rates, are now being caused for individuals and business.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE CONSTITUTION

APPLICATION OF AMENDING FORMULA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Now that the government, through its latest amendments to the constitutional proposal, recognizes the need for equality among the western provinces as well as the Atlantic provinces when dealing with the amending formula, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon):

That the government maintain consistency in the application of the principle of equality and apply it, as well, to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec so that all provinces in Canada can share fully in the heritage of being Canadian without being made to feel like second-class citizens in a checkerboard Canada.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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HOUSING

DEMAND THAT MINISTER VISIT VANCOUVER—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a very urgent matter. Last week thousands of concerned citizens acknowledged the Vancouver housing crisis by attending a week of hearings and discussions which appealed for government action to alleviate the unbearable housing situation in B.C. Since the minister responsible has taken no action except to call for the removal of rent controls, and since B.C. loses