

of line. Public revenues are much lower than expected, expenditures are higher, and economists are now predicting a \$17 billion deficit for this fiscal year. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean):

That the Minister of Finance table the latest departmental estimates of the expected financial requirements of the government which will likely exceed twice those forecast in the budget.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

RESIGNATION OF SENATOR FROM LIBERAL PARTY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that another distinguished Liberal, one of a vanishing breed, Senator Cook, has resigned from the Liberal party because the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) has acted with great impropriety in going directly to the Supreme Court of Canada with a reference on the offshore issue at a time when it has been referred to the Newfoundland Supreme Court of Appeal, thereby insulting the Newfoundland court, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie):

That this House congratulates Senator Cook for his courage and dedication to the public good, and for his defence of our federal system, and further that this House encourages other distinguished Liberals, if such there be, to follow suit.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

PLIGHT OF EX-MEMBERS OF WARTIME RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the War Veterans Allowance Act does not apply to ex-members of various resistance movements, and that omission does a gross disservice to many individuals who actively fought for the allied cause during World War II, and who now live in Canada, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House requests the Minister of Veterans Affairs to bring forward amendments to the War Veterans Allowance Act that would give full recognition to those individuals who gave so much of themselves to the allied cause during World War II, and who now require financial aid in their retirement years.

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

• (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OUTLINING NEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns today's inflation figures which show that Canadians are suffering all the grief from the minister's policy but are getting none of the relief that he has been promising for the last 12 months. The anti-inflation policy of the government is simply not working. We are stuck at the 11 per cent to 12 per cent inflation rate. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians are losing their jobs because of the minister's policies. Thousands of businesses and farms are being destroyed. The confidence level of the Canadian people has been completely shattered by the government. Canadians are desperate. Will the minister give a commitment today to the people of Canada to make a statement outlining some new economic policies before the middle of June?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member ought to have acknowledged that there has been a drop in the year-to-year inflation rate. It is the lowest year-to-year increase for 16 months. I believe that is something which ought to be acknowledged. The peak inflation rate for this country was 13 per cent which occurred in July, 1981, I believe. The rate has dropped, and I think the hon. member ought to acknowledge that year-to-year drop recorded in today's statistics. It is a hopeful note. As well the month-to-month increase is the lowest since last September.

The hon. member, in dealing with the very serious problem of inflation, which is undoubtedly serious, should acknowledge at least that there has been a continuing downward trend, not only on a month-to-month basis, but on a year-to-year basis.

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, the minister did not answer my question again. I am getting used to that, however. He never answers questions. But the minister should also acknowledge the fact that in the United States over the same period we have seen the inflation rate drop from about the same level to the current level of approximately 6.5 per cent. Clearly things are not working here in Canada, and we are suffering the same pain and the same problems as they are in the United States, without any of the benefits.