

NATIONAL INDUSTRIALLY CAUSED HANDICAPPED DAY ACT

MEASURE TO HONOUR INDUSTRIALLY CAUSED HANDICAPPED
PERSONS

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-372, to honour industrially caused handicapped persons.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mrs. Appolloni: Mr. Speaker, in some countries the victims of industrial accidents receive a title denoting the special regard in which they are held by those who have in one way or another benefited from their past work. No such title exists in English, but it is my hope that by proclaiming a special day to honour injured workers we will attract public awareness to the contribution they have made to our industrial progress and we will give to them the dignity and recognition which monetary compensation alone cannot achieve.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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SOVEREIGNTY SYMBOL

MEASURE TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE BEAVER AS SYMBOL
OF CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-373, to provide for the recognition of the Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Dominion of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to recognize the Beaver as one of the symbols of Canada's sovereignty. The importance of the beaver to the discoveries, explorations and settlements first made in Canada is, of course, basic to our history. Moreover, the beaver, although never officially recognized, became and remains a symbol with which Canadians have identified. This bill does not, therefore, remove the beaver from popular use as a trade name or other symbol. Rather, the bill proposes to protect the beaver as a popular symbol reserved to Canadians by declaring the beaver a national symbol.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING
CONSENSUS OF VARIOUS GROUPS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance who, I believe, is commencing exploratory efforts to achieve a consensus. In the course of his talks with union representatives, for example, did the minister outline a proposal for labour participation in an effort to reach a consensus with the various groups in the country to stabilize the economy, a form of comprehensive social contract? Is that what the minister is attempting?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the informal discussions continued this week with an informal meeting between myself, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Minister of Labour and the executive of the Canadian Labour Congress. We discussed the inflationary and general economic situation and what responses were appropriate by the government and the private sector, including the organized labour movement. The discussions were without prejudice; they were informal and they were exploratory. I think there was a general feeling that we made a good beginning and had a good discussion.

Mr. Stanfield: That is fine, Mr. Speaker, and it is very nice to know that the minister and representatives of organized labour had a good discussion. Can the minister indicate precisely what he is trying to accomplish? I am not asking him for figures or anything like that, but what is he seeking? Is he seeking a succession of pleasant discussions or is he attempting to achieve a consensus and, if so, what is the consensus all about? Is he seeking a comprehensive social contact kind of thing to stabilize the economy, or is this simply a device for stringing out a series of meetings to sort of fend off the public which wants something done about inflation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, this government is continuing to stay in very close touch with various sectors of the economy. I have heard the hon. gentleman when he was at his best suggest that dialogue with various segments of the community and the country is useful. Ministers are interested in discussing the inflationary situation and other related issues. We are concerned also with how each sector of the community feels the government might more appropriately deal with it in current circumstances.

In addition, we also want to explore with each segment of the economy what it feels would be an appropriate response for that segment in the current situation. We have suggested to each segment that the government has rejected deflationary and restrictive economic policies, which would have as their inevitable result a provoking of massive unemployment. We have rejected, and the Canadian people seem also to have rejected, price and wage controls. We are looking, therefore, for some style of