

Pensioners for Quebec Old People's Homes

The pensioners of my constituency living in old people's homes are asking the government to take specific steps, in order to cope with the decision of the Quebec government concerning the \$15 per month increase of the old age security pension.

From July 1, 1972 the cost of board will be raised to \$110 per month, which means that they will really only get \$9 out of the \$15 raise, as mentioned in a letter which has been sent to me by Mr. Philippe Hinse, on behalf of all boarders at the Foyer Sainte-Anne-Marie, in Danville—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should move his motion immediately.

Mr. Beaudoin: Very well, Mr. Speaker.

I request the unanimous consent of the House so that this urgent matter be debated and so that the pensioners receive what the House has voted. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin):

That the government take appropriate steps to ensure that the Quebec pensioners actually draw the full amount granted by the government under Bill C-207.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The motion moved by the hon. member is not in order, because he moves it under the provisions of Standing Order 43, whereas this is actually a motion which should be moved under Standing Order 26. The hon. member requests the unanimous consent of the House to discuss this urgent matter, so that pensioners will actually draw the amount that the House has voted. In other words, he requests the holding of an emergency debate, and such a motion must be moved under the provisions of Standing Order 26.

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[English]

ORDERS AND DECORATIONS

TABLING OF ORDERS IN COUNCIL RESPECTING PROTOCOL FOR WEARING INSIGNIA

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table Orders in Council in both languages respecting protocol for wearing insignia for Canadian orders and Canadian decorations.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I had intended at this stage of the proceedings to request permission to move a resolution for the adjournment of the House to discuss the matter raised by the Public Service Commission report, but in view of the agreement to refer this matter to a committee I should like to have permission to withdraw this proposal for the time being.

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

FINANCE

CANADIAN DOLLAR—MAINTENANCE OF FREE FLOAT— GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN EXCHANGE FUND— ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER COUNTRIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether the government of Canada and the Bank of Canada are still maintaining a clean, free float of the Canadian dollar as the minister assured us recently had been maintained at least since the commencement of the year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the government has intervened in the exchange fund only to maintain an orderly market.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. gentleman whether he has had any consultations with his counterparts in other countries in order to ascertain what their reactions will be to this movement by the government of Canada to intervene from day to day in the exchange fund? Has the hon. gentleman consulted his counterparts and can he assure us that this will be acceptable to them?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the countries represented in OECD understand Canada's position. As a matter of fact, when I was in Paris last week I chatted with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund who also has an awareness of Canada's position and why we are floating our dollar. A special auditing team of the International Monetary Fund, as is customary, visited Ottawa two weeks ago and had interviews with the governor of the Bank of Canada and its senior officers and with senior officials of the Department of Finance, the Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada and myself, and expressed understanding of Canada's position in this respect.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I point out to the minister that he did not answer my question. I should like to ask him how far the government of Canada would consider it appropriate to go in ironing out day to day fluctuations of the sort he has in mind? Would the minister indicate to what extent he would consider it appropriate for Canada to increase its holdings of foreign exchange within the doctrine he has announced in the House this afternoon?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing new in the doctrine in the terms in which I have replied to Leader of the Opposition. I would not want to speculate by way of an answer to him, except to say that the problems encountered by Canada in respect of the exchange rate are in no way unique. They are shared by other countries in the world as a result of the current weaker position of the U.S. dollar.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, at the time the Minister of Finance held his discussions with the manager of the International Monetary Fund, did he or officials of the Bank of Canada disclose to the manager that Canada intended to conduct these, shall we say, even-