

**Madam Speaker:** Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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### RAILWAYS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON UPGRADING AND EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LINES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

The urgency arises from the fact that the governments of Canada and British Columbia have agreed on a deadline of June 10 to arrive at a decision with regard to sharing the costs of certain rail extensions and upgrading of facilities in connection with the delivery to export markets of coal from north-eastern British Columbia. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro):

● (1115)

That the Minister of Transport avail himself on the first opportunity under the rules of the House to make a statement with respect to any federal participation toward the upgrading and extension of certain BCR rail lines, the upgrading of certain sections of the CNR and the improvement of port facilities on the west coast, all designed to meet the objections of delivering and handling coal for export from northeastern British Columbia to tidewater.

**Madam Speaker:** Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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### STATISTICS CANADA

MODIFICATION OF LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE RIGHT TO PRIVACY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In view of the proposal by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) to sell information collected by Statistics Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nunatsiag (Mr. Ittinuar):

That the legislation forcing Canadians to provide information to Statistics Canada be modified and that the Liberal government be condemned for unilaterally proposing such an invasion of Canadian privacy.

**Madam Speaker:** Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

### Oral Questions

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### INCOME TAX

CONDEMNATION OF SUGGESTION TO ABOLISH INDEXATION OF PERSONAL TAX

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, I direct my question to the Minister of State (Finance). The Minister has stated that Canadians face a 50-50 chance of losing the indexation on their personal income tax this year. The finance critic for the NDP has said that they oppose indexing, in any event.

The tax expert, Mr. John Bossons of Toronto, has said that abolishing indexing would "hit low income people the hardest, and harder every year after the first year". He says that a one-worker family with two young children, earning a taxable income of \$10,000, would have a 31.3 per cent tax increase this year, while a taxpayer with an income of \$40,000 would have an increase of only 4.5 per cent.

In view of these facts, would the minister now assure the Canadian people, and particularly low-income taxpayers, that the government will not abolish or interfere in any way with the indexation of the personal income tax this year or in any year in the future?

[Translation]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, at this time of year there is naturally a great deal of speculation on the various measures that the Minister of Finance will take at budget time. All I can tell the hon. member is that this issue is of great concern to the Minister of Finance but he has taken no decision on the matter. As is customary, when a decision is made, the minister will certainly not announce it during question period but rather during the budget speech.

[English]

**Mr. Crosbie:** Madam Speaker, I am glad to hear that the minister is a little less positive. A few days ago he said it was a 50-50 chance and his minister has said it is a probability. Mr. Robert Brown, of Price Waterhouse, calls the suggestion "the most retrogressive step in Canada taxation in 25 years".

**An hon. Member:** Question.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Members opposite seem very anxious to have me put my question and get this over with. The Prime Minister has said that a Liberal government would make the tax system more equitable. That was a promise he made on January 12,