

*Sugar Price Increase***SUGAR**PRICE INCREASES—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT  
UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

I point out that our group made very definite suggestions to set up a real municipal credit bank, which would be much more practical.

But, as I just said, it is a move in the right direction and I hope that before long, with the experience gained from the municipal development and loan board, we will be in a position to set up a real municipal credit bank which could more effectively alleviate the burden of municipalities which have to undertake improvement works.

**Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, we listened with interest to the statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) concerning loans to municipalities meant to create new jobs in Canada.

We doubt that such a step will result in full employment, but no one can deny that it will help to provide work for a number of unemployed who are now going through hard times.

On the other hand, there is one feature we do not like, and that is the 5¼ per cent interest rate. This means that a municipality which is being granted a \$100,000 loan at this time will have to pay back over \$200,000 inside twenty years. In so doing, it is mortgaging future generations, putting liabilities on our own children.

I appreciate that, on account of the present financial system, we have to act that way, but what we suggest to the Minister of Finance is to utilize the Bank of Canada, which is our own body, to grant loans to the municipalities at a nominal interest rate which would not exceed administration costs, that is about 1 or 1¼ per cent, then the municipalities could look at the future with confidence.

I realize that under the present system the Minister of Finance cannot do otherwise but, as someone said yesterday, it is time, it seems, to turn aside from the beaten track and to create something new in our country, in order to lighten the burden of the municipalities as well as that of the provinces and even of the central government, in short to relieve the Canadian people.

[Text]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**ENGLISH DEBATES—REFERENCE OF SURVEY TO  
STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** If there is unanimous consent I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Prince:

That the report of the survey of the English debates reporting branch of the House of Commons tabled by Mr. Speaker be referred to the standing committee on debates for immediate consideration and report.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond):** I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for New Westminster:

That the house adjourn, under standing order number 26, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the constant increase in the price of sugar.

Since January 1 of this year sugar prices have changed more than 90 times. Since this session of parliament started 26 members representing all parties have asked 40 questions on the matter of sugar prices. This large volume of questions on the one subject reflects the concern of many thousands of people in the country, particularly housewives.

To most of these questions by members the government has said in effect "We can do nothing". We do not feel this answer is good enough for a matter of this importance. The people expect some action from the government on a matter which they cannot handle themselves. Other governments have done something about it. The government of the United Kingdom has a sugar control board which makes long term contracts. The United States—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether Your Honour would consider the request of the hon. gentleman before he embarks upon a debate. I think that is the usual procedure.

**Mr. Prittie:** On the point of order, I was merely trying to point out the need for debate at this time.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened with great interest, of course, to the remarks of the hon. member. I think he is entitled to make a short explanation. Was he just about to conclude that short explanation?

**Mr. Prittie:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I pointed out that we have had the reply from the government that nothing can be done, and that other governments have taken action. I suggest finally that we should give some consideration to consumer support prices in the same way we do with regard to producer support prices. The important point is that this matter needs to be aired in the house and not merely in the question period.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Does Your Honour wish to hear any argument on the point or is Your Honour prepared to make a decision without argument?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am prepared to make a decision. It may not be very popular, but it is my duty. There are at least two points