

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 11, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSED HEAD TAX ON TRAVELLERS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the administrative difficulties that will arise from the implementation of the head tax on travellers that has been proposed by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand), I move, seconded by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay):

That the House instruct the Minister of Transport to delay the implementation of the proposed airport charge in order to allow time for consideration of alternative methods of financing airport expenses, and to allow further consultation between industry representatives and officials of his department.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion is proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43 and requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

PROPOSED TERMINATION—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I rise to propose a motion in a case of urgent and pressing necessity, namely, the costly irrelevance and ineffectiveness of the Food Prices Review Board in regard to the problem of the Canadian consumer who is struggling to feed himself and his family against a 1.2 per cent increase in the consumer price index in the last month alone and a staggering 18.5 per cent increase in his food costs over the last 12 months. With consent, Mr. Speaker, I therefore propose to move, seconded by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski):

That his House recommends that the term of appointment of the five commissioners of the Food Prices Review Board be terminated by the government on December 31, 1973, instead of the present

date of December 31, 1974, and this House urges that the consequential savings in public money of over \$1 million be used to assist those Canadians who are unable to buy adequate and nutritious food at present food price levels.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has procedural reservations about the form of a motion of this kind. The hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley knows, as do other hon. members, that Standing Order 43 is used in very special circumstances and that if members choose to use the provisions of Standing Order 43 they should not take advantage of the rules to put argument on the record which, under the practice of the House, cannot be answered by hon. members who may not agree with the argument put forward in support of the motion. Having said that, I will ask whether there is unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There does not appear to be unanimity. Therefore the hon. member's proposed motion cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE—REQUEST FOR CLEAR PICTURE OF GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT INFLATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the increase in the consumer price index of 9.3 per cent from November, 1972, to November, 1973, I should like to ask whether he is going to come out of hiding before the recess and present a clear picture to the House of the government's economic policies with regard to this enormously shattering experience ordinary Canadians are undergoing?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have been visible but the hon. gentleman has chosen to direct his question elsewhere in recent weeks. I am glad to reply to him at this time and say that of course price rises continue to be disturbing, but the recent figures again reflect a rise in food prices which is the result of an imbalance again in supply and demand. I have dealt with this issue—

Mr. McGrath: Hogwash!