

Saunders Aircraft

debate these subjects. They are the subject of debate this afternoon and on the following five days.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR DISCOUNT ON HEATING OIL—MOTION UNDER
S.O. 43

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I request unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a pressing matter of extreme importance.

As the choices to be made, as a result of the budget speech of June 23 last, will be essentially of a political nature;

As the Minister of Finance is incapable, with the present policy, to fight inflation;

As the increase in the price of natural gas and heating oil, as announced by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech, will constitute too heavy a burden for the average-income taxpayers, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That a compensated discount be applied to heating oil and natural gas, with a view to enabling Canadians, whose income is less than \$12,000 a year, to heat their homes in spite of the increase in prices.

Mr. Speaker: Once again I am sorry that I have to tell the hon. member that he will have the opportunity of discussing this motion during the six-day debate on the budget.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION OF
SAUNDERS AIRCRAFT FOR PAIT GRANT—MOTION UNDER S.O.
43

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to propose a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that Saunders Aircraft Corporation of Gimli, Manitoba, has been forced to discontinue operations at the production level, resulting in the lay-off of 300 workers, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) has not yet reached a decision, after two years consideration, on Saunders application under the Program for the Advancement of Industrial Technology, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce immediately reconsider Saunders' application for PAIT and all other federal programs under which Saunders may qualify.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43, the motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

PROPOSED TAX ON GASOLINE—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF
AMOUNT OF GASOLINE SAVED BY THIS MEASURE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I had a question or two for the Minister of Finance who I had hoped would be here.

An hon. Member: Here he is now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, it is quite a while since I received that much applause from the other side of the House. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question relating to the proposed ten cent tax on gasoline. The minister did not tell us the other evening how much gasoline it was estimated this would conserve. I am sure he has this information. Can he tell us his estimate as to the approximate number of gallons of gasoline this tax will conserve as far as consumption in Canada is concerned, say for the next 12 months?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the Minister of Finance replies, I might say that the question puts the Chair in some difficulty. It has been the constant and consistent position that when a subject matter has been reserved for debate on orders of the day, that questions on that particular subject ought to be deferred until the debate is held.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: That is obviously a regulation or position which, if too rigidly enforced, would restrict questions too much. However, today and on the following five days the entire budget will be the subject of debate. It is, therefore, difficult to reconcile questions during the question period on the budget if the budget is going to be debated for six days. I do not want to unduly restrict the Leader of the Opposition in laying groundwork for the budget debate. However, we ought not to occupy the question period in its entirety with questions on the budget.

Mr. Stanfield: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that a debate is no substitute for getting information from the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I think it very natural that there might very well be a number of questions arising out of the budget presentation and speech, and I suggest with great respect that members of the opposition should be free to question the minister with regard to the budget for greater