

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 23, 1975

The House met at 2 p.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### TRANSPORT

PROPOSED REFERENCE OF FREIGHT RATE INCREASES TO CANADIAN TRANSPORT COMMISSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43 concerning further freight rate increases which are being phased in by our railways and which will have an impact on many sectors of the economy in eastern Canada. This action by the railways, following on the heels of a 25 per cent rate increase which already has had adverse effects on this region, threatens to have further economic implications on an already depressed region. Since the railways will be permitted to implement this increase unless intervention takes place, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall):

That the Minister of Transport take the necessary steps to have the matter referred to the Canadian Transport Commission for their consideration and evaluation.

**Mr. Speaker:** A motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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[Translation]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO ENSURE RETURN TO WORK—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion dealing with an urgent and important matter.

Since the longshoremen's strike in the Quebec ports as well as the inspectors' strike are entirely paralyzing the grain shipment, which does considerable harm to Quebec breeders, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House consider immediately the steps to be taken so that Canadian dockers will no longer be subjected to foreign orders and that the refitting inspectors return to work right away.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Under Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such a consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Since there is not unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

[English]

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder whether cabinet ministers would edit their press releases in the House rather than out of it so that we would have them here to answer questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Oral questions.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### AIR CANADA

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE INQUIRY INTO ACCOUNTING SYSTEM NOT PRECLUDED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Since there seems to be some possible confusion or discrepancies in the statements made by the Acting Prime Minister yesterday and the statements made by the Minister of Transport concerning the terms of reference for the inquiry into the affairs of Air Canada, would the Prime Minister assure the House that the Minister of Transport's discussions with Judge Estey will not preclude the possibility of an immediate inquiry into the accounting system of Air Canada and ancillary matters relating to finance?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what the Minister of Transport himself said in the House yesterday.

**Mr. MacKay:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the right hon. gentleman assure the House, as I felt the Acting Prime Minister did yesterday, that since many other aspects of Air Canada's operations have been the subject of frequent complaint, often well documented, he will consider other inquiries if he does not give Judge Estey wide powers pursuant to this particular inquiry?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I take it that is a representation, Mr. Speaker. I will see that the minister reads it.