

That this House direct the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and his senior officials from CMHC to appear before a special meeting of the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

**Mr. Speaker:** Under the terms of Standing Order 43, a motion such as has been proposed requires the unanimous consent of the House before it can be presented. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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[Translation]

### AGRICULTURE

#### REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF POULTRY MARKETING AGENCY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion dealing with an important matter of pressing necessity.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) is still waiting to set up a poultry and broiler marketing agency in Canada which is unfair and not too encouraging for Quebec farmers, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Janelle):

That the Minister of Agriculture and the government deal as soon as possible with the establishment of that marketing board and the national program for poultry and broiler producers in Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, such motion can only be introduced for debate with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### FORECAST OF REAL GROWTH FOR 1979

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Last November, a little more than a year ago, the hon. gentleman predicted we were on the threshold of tremendous growth. We are still on that threshold.

#### Oral Questions

Yesterday, his department issued a report, "Year-End Review and Outlook", in which it was stated that a sharp slow-down in the United States economy next year would hurt Canadian exports. We know there is going to be a sharp downturn in the U.S. economy next year: predictions are for an increase in gross national product of 2 per cent only. The report says exports have fuelled Canadian growth in the past two years but that we are, unfortunately, not going to be able to rely on a repeat performance in 1979.

An aide to the minister has suggested that the views of the department and of the minister do not necessarily coincide. My question is this: do the minister's views coincide with the views and opinions expressed in the report of his department? If they do not, will the hon. gentleman explain where they do not coincide, and would he tell us upon whose views the government is proceeding—his views, or the department's if there is a difference?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of the department's views versus my views. The department is making an estimate based upon what they think could happen next year if there is a slowdown in the American economy. I believe the American economy will not slowdown as much as some experts have suggested it will, and I certainly believe we will experience another good year in exports next year because it takes a while for the lower dollar to really take effect.

So I think the department is really being somewhat ultra-conservative in the economic predictions in their paper. I do not take that view: I look forward with a very buoyant attitude toward the future of the Canadian economy.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** In other words, the hon. minister is saying he is very bullish. What the minister has said is that he does not agree with the estimates made by his department with respect to the growth, or lack of growth, in the U.S. economy for next year.

● (1117)

If that is the case, why is he permitting his department to put out a report that says our export performance is going to be down next year as compared to this year? If the minister believes that his department's forecasts are not accurate, and if he believes that the Americans have now got their economics right—that is what he was implying a few weeks ago when he said that they had not got them right—will he explain to us why he permits the department to put out assessments that he does not agree with?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, I did not say I did not agree with the assessment the department made, but I think it is customary for civil servants to tend to put their projections a little on the safe side. The hon. member refers to me as being bullish. That is fine. But I am not a civil servant; I am the leader of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!