

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 12, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GRAIN

COST OF PRODUCTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Whereas the Canadian Grain Commission has given notice that grain handling tariffs will be increased from 10 per cent to 50 per cent this summer, and whereas farmers are already seriously feeling the pinch with regard to higher costs for everything they buy, including machinery, unnecessary increases due to metric, along with high interest rates and unprecedented inflation, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields):

That the Government of Canada provide some leadership by finding ways and means of keeping the cost of production down by increasing the returns to producers and by eliminating unnecessary costs, tariffs and taxes before the industry is completely destroyed.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE ECONOMY

INCREASE IN FOOD COSTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of extreme urgency under the provisions of Standing Order 43. According to recent figures from Statistics Canada, what a dollar would buy in the way of groceries in 1971 now costs the Canadian consumer \$2.85. As well, in light of the fact that food prices have risen astronomically since the government took office, forcing many Canadians to try to subsist on a "dollar diet", which is almost the price of a simple loaf of bread, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Ellis):

That the heartless, do-nothing Minister of Finance inform this House of the immediate measures he intends to take to assist Canadians who are finding it increasingly difficult to feed their families.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

CALL FOR INCREASED FUNDING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Whereas interest payments now account for more than 15 per cent of total farm costs, or between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion; and whereas farm bankruptcies are increasing at an exponential rate, being up 78 per cent between 1979 and 1980 and continuing up at a rate of over 70 per cent during the first quarter of 1981 compared to the first quarter of 1980, I move, seconded by the hon. member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish):

That this House instructs the Minister of Agriculture to take action immediately to increase funding available to the Farm Credit Corporation by \$150 million and to make possible the reinvestment of funds in the Farm Credit Corporation by retiring farmers.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL UNITY

REQUEST THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO OFFSET ALLEGED PÉQUISTE PROJECTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Marcel Dionne (Chicoutimi): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43 I seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion concerning an urgent and important question.

Considering that, according to an article signed by Normand Girard and published in the *Journal de Montréal* last May 6, the Parti québécois is unofficially committed to achieve separatism, and considering that the people are being told about the deceiving manoeuvres to which the Parti québécois