

workers in that city. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise):

That this government immediately initiate policies to bring down high interest rates, to bring down high energy costs, and to give farmers fair prices for their products.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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METRIC CONVERSION

CONDEMNATION BY PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATURE—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, on March 17, 1982, Conservative and Liberal members of the Prince Edward Island legislature unanimously approved a resolution condemning the government's metric conversion policy. I urge all members of this House, particularly the members opposite, to join with their fellow Liberal members of the P.E.I. legislature in support of that motion. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. McMillan):

That this House adopts the unanimous request of the P.E.I. legislature condemning this government's metric conversion policy.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE ECONOMY

CALL FOR STUDY OF GOVERNMENT FISCAL POLICY—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, the continual flight of capital, both Canadian and foreign, out of Canada, has caused the Bank of Canada to try to protect the value of the Canadian dollar by keeping interest rates significantly higher than in the United States. The result is increasing lay-offs, more unemployment and more distress. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Kushner):

That a special committee of this House be established to inquire into the overall fiscal policy of the government to determine what can be done to reverse the extraordinary outflow of capital from the country, including consideration of reversing completely the National Energy Program, reversing completely the thrust of the foreign investment review program, and reversing completely the anti-entrepreneurial, anti-investment provisions in the November 12 budget.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

ALLEGED ILLEGAL PRICING POLICY OF PETROLEUM
COMPANIES—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urging and pressing necessity, under the provisions of Standing Order 43.

Most of the gas stations in Quebec are now closed, and considering that gas retailers have spoken out against both the provincial surtax and the oil companies who want to squeeze out independent operators by charging exorbitant rental rates and reducing their profit margins, I move, seconded by the member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson):

That the federal government, under the authority it has pursuant to the Combines Investigation Act, order an investigation to determine whether the big oil companies are practising illegal pricing policies.

Madam Speaker: This motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE
POLICIES

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance. Yesterday Mr. Bouey's speech held out little hope for Canadians that interest rates will be coming down. Yesterday the Minister of Finance agreed with the consensus of economists that the economy is in its worst shape in over 30 years. Today Statistics Canada has said that the few signs of recovery evident in the economy in December vanished in January.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister, and I would appreciate if the Prime Minister would answer it. Can he give Canadians any hope that the government is considering alternative economic policies in order to avoid this dismal outlook?

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, in