

S.O. 43

[English]

TREASURY BOARD

AUDITING OF AGENCIES RECEIVING PUBLIC FUNDING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the terms of Standing Order 43.

In light of the fact that the National Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation receives considerable government funding, and since, after numerous complaints by native groups, the government ordered audit services to investigate NIACC; bearing in mind, also, that proper administration of these funds is important in the promotion of the native arts and crafts industry and that the government, though it received the completed audit in August, has consistently refused to present the audit to concerned groups despite all the rhetoric about freedom of information, I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell):

That this House insist on the tabling of the audit in question concerning the use of public funds and that the government live up to its promises of freedom of information and, in future, immediately present to the House reports prepared by audit services of agencies receiving public funding.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion at this time, under the terms of Standing Order 43, requires unanimous consent. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RESPECT UNIVERSALITY OF OLD AGE PENSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 43 to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion on an urgent and pressing matter.

In view of the fact that there are six senior citizens' homes in the riding of Saint-Michel, that I have received numerous phone calls and letters from people concerned over rumours that universal old age pensions may be abolished and that these senior citizens are very vulnerable, anxious, troubled and almost panic-stricken, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Deniger):

That the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Crombie) inform the House this afternoon, provided House rules allow it, whether his department intends to continue universal old age pensions, so as to reassure millions of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion introduced by the hon. member. Pursuant to

[Mr. Speaker.]

Standing Order 43, this motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

● (1125)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STEPS TO ENSURE NO DANGER TO CANADIANS IN IRAN—OIL SUPPLIES FROM IRAN

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Bearing in mind the serious damage done to our political and economic relations with Arab countries by the government's policy on the Canadian embassy in Israel and by the irresponsible and foolish statements made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration last summer, and more recently by the policy adviser to the Prime Minister, can the minister tell us whether she has personally been in touch with our ambassador in Iran in order to ascertain that there is no danger to Canadians who are presently in Iran, and that there is no danger of an interruption of oil supplies from Iran to Canada in the months to come?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I trust that the hon. member will have the same concern about the grave situation which exists in Iran at the present time as do we on this side of the House.

I would like to assure the hon. member that my department has been in touch with our ambassador in Tehran on a continuing basis in order to be assured of the safety of the situation in Tehran and to ascertain how the situation affects Canadian nationals in Iran.

I can assure the hon. member that at the present time there is no real cause for concern. That information has been conveyed to us both by our ambassador in Iran and also by the chargé d'affaires of the Iranian embassy here in Ottawa.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. lady for her answer to the first part of my question. I noticed that she ignored the second part. I would, therefore, like to turn to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

He gives us cold comfort when he states that there is no danger of interruption of supply because there is at sea one tanker from Iran. He knows, or he should know, that the problem of security of supply does not concern just our rela-