

Madam Speaker: In order to be put, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

[English]

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

CALL FOR PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL DAY FOR FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to inspire pride, honour and respect for our country. Yesterday, Sunday, January 11, was the 166th anniversary of the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, one of the Fathers of Confederation and the first Prime Minister of Canada. At a time when we need to give our support to symbols which unite us as Canadians rather than accentuate the things that separate and divide, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald), whose sponsorship is especially appropriate because of the links between her name and riding and the subject of this motion:

That January 11 be proclaimed a national day for Sir John A, a day which will be observed annually to serve as a symbol of respect in recognition and commemoration of the first Prime Minister of Canada.

● (1415)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

INQUIRY WHETHER CHANGES IN POLICY PROPOSED

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who is responsible for the economic health of the country. He will remember that on December 17 the Prime Minister said that he had seen no evidence that the movement of oil rigs and investment money out of Canada was causing any damage to Canadian jobs, to Canadian security or to the Canadian economy.

Oral Questions

Given the wide range of evidence of investment being diverted away from Canadian energy development by Canadian companies toward energy development in other countries, and given the estimate by oil drilling associations that in the neighbourhood of 40,000 existing Canadian jobs will be lost by the end of March as a result of the government's energy policy, I wonder if the Minister of Finance, in his capacity as the author, or at least the signatory, of the budget and in his capacity as the Deputy Prime Minister, will tell the House whether the government intends to protect the Canadian economy by proposing significant changes in the energy policy which is now driving jobs and investment out of this country?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: I want to draw to the attention of the hon. Leader of the Opposition a statement made by a spokesman of the oil drilling rigs association who stated that the figure to which the right hon. member has referred was merely an attention getting figure, that they had no basis in fact to justify the type of figure referred to by the right hon. member. Therefore, I should like to suggest to him that he read carefully those so-called statements which are made without any foundation.

So far as the general question raised by the right hon. member is concerned, I should like to state quite clearly that the government is very concerned about the impact of energy pricing on inflation and on unemployment. The right hon. member knows that every dollar increase in the price of a barrel of oil has a significant impact on inflation and on loss of jobs in Canada. It is important that we proceed on a very gradual basis, one that will make sure that the inflationary impact of high prices for energy on the Canadian consumer and on Canadian jobs will be gradual so that the economy can absorb the increases without negative effects.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we indicated just before the House adjourned in December that we were willing to make adjustments and that changes were made in the budget proposal concerning exploratory wells. These changes are in the ways and means motions before the House. We will continue the present policy for 1981 and we have suggested some changes for 1982. I think the government has clearly indicated that it has in mind the welfare of all parts of this country in its energy policy.

● (1420)

EFFECT OF ENERGY POLICY ON ECONOMY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I was surprised when the Minister of Finance let the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources write his budget. I am even more surprised that the Minister of Finance does not have the faith in the budget he offered to stand up and explain and defend economic policy in the House. The Minister of