

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 6, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PARLIAMENT

SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT OF CONSTITUENCY REDISTRIBUTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I rise to seek redress for an unnecessary exercise which will waste approximately \$4 million of the Canadian taxpayers' money. A government spokesman, the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council, is on public record to the effect that the next election will be based on current boundaries. Therefore the proposed changes in electoral boundaries will never be used. As a result, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Ellis):

That the government introduce a one-line bill halting this futile redistribution until such time as the much-needed reform of Parliament, including the Senate, has been effected in order to avoid a repetition of the useless redistribution which took place in 1972-74.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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FINANCE

CALL FOR COMMITTEE STUDY OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES— MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, the Auditor General has expressed deep concern that government guarantees of private company indebtedness now exceed \$8 billion. Many of the companies whose debts the government has guaranteed are not viable and these guarantees represent a liability to the taxpayers not disclosed in the budget or budget papers. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby):

That a special committee of this House examine the outstanding guarantees given by the Government of Canada to banks and bankers on behalf of private companies, to determine the extent of the government's liability, and that the government's financial statements be amended to make realistic provision for the payment of these guarantees should they be called.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA—CALL FOR BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, considering the refusal of the Argentinian government to obey the United Nations' call for a removal of its troops from the Falkland Islands and its belligerent assertion that it will use force to maintain their illegal occupation, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant):

That this House (1) urges the government to break off diplomatic relationships with Argentina, and (2) immediately contact other countries to urge them to follow suit.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED LOWERING OF INTEREST RATES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Madam Speaker, the high interest rate policy of the government is destroying the agricultural industry in Canada. Farmers cannot afford the interest charged on loans, general or operating. The Farm Credit Corporation loans and Small Business Development loans are a farce, with their tight regulations and meagre funding. I am sure that members on that side of the House are also aware that farmers just cannot raise their prices, like other producers, to cover cost increases. Madam Speaker, farmers just cannot take the price-cost squeeze any longer. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member from Elgin (Mr. Wise):

That this government immediately take steps to lower interest rates on all agriculture loans.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!