

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR OTTAWA CENTRE

MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley):

That the House expresses its deepest sympathy to the hon. member for Ottawa Centre whose reward for months of valiantly defending the indefensible, that is, the MacEachen budget, was to be stripped of his post as parliamentary secretary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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METRIC CONVERSION

STATEMENT IN GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis):

That this House reconfirms its approval of the government white paper on metric conversion brought in by the then minister of industry, trade and commerce, Mr. Pepin, where it states that because of the close ties between the U.S. and Canada in science, technology, industry and commerce, each country has a special interest in the course likely to be followed by the other in respect of metric conversion.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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RAILWAYS

CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF TRANSPORT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member of Beaches (Mr. Young):

That in the interests of rail safety the Minister of Transport tender his resignation.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

CANADA POST

ROLE OF AUDITOR GENERAL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North): Madam Speaker, the legislation transforming the Post Office into a Crown corporation called for the Auditor General to retain authority for monitoring the Post Office for two years, after which it could be shifted entirely to a private firm. In view of the fact that the Auditor General acts in the public interest and assures disclosure of Post Office operations, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York North (Mr. Gamble):

That this House recommend the Auditor General retain authority for the monitoring of the Canada Post Corporation and that authority not be transferred solely to a private firm which might not protect the valid interests of Canadian taxpayers.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

RAILWAYS

TRAIN WRECK NEAR ORILLIA, ONT.

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport if he could bring us up to date on the train wreck that occurred outside Orillia. Can he tell the House if the safety procedures recommended by Grange and studied by many committees and the CTC had been in place whether this wreck could have been avoided?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, my answer is no. If the regulations had been in place concerning hot box detectors, for example, they would not have applied in this particular case. The situation is under control. The possible cause of the accident is not a hot box; it is a broken wheel, which is a type of accident that apparently happens in Canada two or three times a year.

Thirty-six cars derailed in all. Those 36 included 12 cars containing dangerous goods, most of it in boxcars and most of it in relatively small quantities. The key car was the hydrofluoric acid car, No. 12, buried in the jumble of cars. This one contained 39 tonnes of hydrofluoric acid, which is corrosive and toxic. This is the situation as of now. There is still some fire, but it is not creating any major anxiety on the part of the emergency officials who are at the site at the moment.