

*Agriculture*

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Towers:**—and to prove that the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) is dead wrong in his statement that the Official Opposition wants the Auditor General to do its job, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

That the Minister of Agriculture reimburse forthwith all moneys absconded from the PFAA fund and applied to the operation of an office completely separate from PFAA, which has been referred to as the Liberal headquarters in Regina, that of an executive assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and a former Liberal MLA.

**Mr. Speaker:** Notwithstanding a slight political over-tone to the motion, it being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

SUGGESTION FIXED PERIODS BE ADOPTED FOR SESSIONS—  
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In view of the fact that it would be advisable for several reasons that parliamentary sessions be predetermined under the rules, and the fact that it is increasingly necessary for members to know beforehand during which periods of the year the House will be sitting so that their families may enjoy the holidays with them, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise):

That this House ask the Committee on Procedure and Organization to look into the possibility of having parliamentary sessions and recesses coincide with the school year.

**Mr. Speaker:** This motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 cannot be put without unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent, therefore the motion cannot be put.

[Mr. Towers.]

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF FIGURES SHOWING EXCESSIVE  
WAGE INCREASES—ACCEPTANCE OF FIGURES BY MINISTER  
OF LABOUR

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. As the Minister of Finance is reported to have said last Friday that Canadian wage and salary increases are roughly double those in the United States and seriously endanger our competitive position and our major goals, to which he added, and I quote:

This is not a myth—we have the figures to prove it and they will be published.

Will the Acting Prime Minister say, in view of the importance of this subject and the confusion created by, among other things, the statement to the contrary made by the Minister of Labour in this House on May 27, when these figures and analyses will be published?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not certain when the Minister of Finance intends to bring down the papers which he customarily brings down before the budget. In any event, I have seen the figures and I know the Minister of Finance intends to make them available to the House in connection with the budget.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have the figures and analyses to which the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance referred been made available to the Minister of Labour, and does the Minister of Labour accept those figures and analyses?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance presented them to cabinet. I am not sure if the Minister of Labour was present; in any event, discussions in cabinet, as the hon. member knows, he being a former prime minister, are privileged.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, to set the record straight, I am not a former prime minister but content to have been a former premier. In asking the Acting Prime Minister a final supplementary question I am not asking him to divulge any confidences or what may have taken place in cabinet. I ask the Acting Prime Minister this: does the Minister of Labour, who has the important responsibility of representing in the government the interests and point of view of labour in this country, accept the figures and analyses of the Minister of Finance? Can the Acting Prime Minister give us that assurance, in order that confusion which has been created by contradictory statements made by two ministers may be eliminated?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said: matters discussed in cabinet are discussed in confidence, and must be that way. I can say no more. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to direct questions to the Minister of Labour, when he is here, that is a different matter, but I cannot answer other than the way I have answered.