

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 21, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

THE LATE RÉAL CAOUETTE

MINUTE OF SILENCE TO HONOUR MEMORY

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members are aware that the funeral of the late Réal Caouette is taking place at this very moment in Rouyn. It is a fitting tribute to this man's memory and to his many friends and relatives to whom our sympathies have already been extended that such a great contingent from this House has gone to attend the funeral this afternoon, including the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent), and of course the entire Social Credit caucus. Since the funeral is taking place at this very moment, I ask hon. members to join with me in observing one minute's silence.

[Editor's note: The House stood in silent tribute.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD ON PERFORMANCE OF ECONOMY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. As the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) has remarked that Canada's financial performance during the past four years has been nothing short of remarkable, yet we find the prestigious independent Credit Swiss in their Canadian financial letter stating that Canada's rating as a place for investment has suffered due to the growth of the public sector at the expense of the private sector, the excessive and erratic taxation of corporations, and the productivity-hampering profit controls which have been wilfully introduced into the Canadian investment picture by Ottawa, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Lavoie):

That this House request the President of the Treasury Board to make a statement on motions setting forth why he feels our performance has been nothing short of remarkable in view of contrary views being held by independent world observers such as Credit Swiss.

Mr. Speaker: I have some considerable misgiving about this kind of motion being moved pursuant to Standing Order 43. I have indicated that such a motion ought to set out the reason

for the motion and that members should stay away from controversial motions that are subject to debate. I will put the motion to the House pursuant to Standing Order 43, but I think hon. members should stay away from this kind of preamble in future. Pursuant to Standing Order 43 the motion cannot be presented to the House without unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST TO SPECIFY DATE OF APPLICATION OF PROVISION OF BILL C-69—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

The Minister of Manpower and Immigration said, concerning the case of Mr. Charles Dubé and of many other citizens involved in an awkward situation as a result of section 7 of Bill C-69 amending subsection 25 (b), which according to a letter from the minister's office came into effect on July 4, 1976, that after some inquiries this piece of legislation would have been effective in fact since January 4, 1976. Because of the misunderstanding about the date of implementation of the act, I move, supported by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander):

That the Minister inform the House as soon as possible in order to clarify the situation so that the Canadian people involved in this matter do not fall victims of a misinterpretation on the date of implementation of the act, for which the civil servants concerned cannot be blamed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the hon. member's motion. Pursuant to Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

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