

seconded by the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker):

That the Department of Secretary of State immediately undertake to review the Canada Student Loans Program and develop adequate control procedures for its operations and management.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

IMPACT ON REGIONS NOT RECEIVING ASSISTANCE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, I should like to commend the Department of Regional Economic Expansion which has worked to the advantage of a number of developing regions in Canada by giving a stimulus to otherwise slow growth areas.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Malone: However, in view of the fact that marginal areas of economic growth which are not supported by DREE feel discriminated against by the fact that many of their normal, local industrial projects are siphoned away by the attraction of DREE's financial support elsewhere, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave):

That this House urge the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion to undertake a study to ascertain the scope and significance of the negative impact on those regions not assisted by DREE but because of DREE programs elsewhere lose their potential and are robbed of the opportunity to grow.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

● (1415)

CANADA POST

CALL FOR CHANGES IN PROPOSED POSTAL RATES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Madam Speaker, the 60 days for the review of the proposed exorbitant increase in postal rates has expired without any changes being made by the Canada Post Corporation. It is now incumbent upon the Governor in Council to accept or reject the 30-cent rate. Because of the hardship the increases will impose on all Canadians, in particular upon senior citizens, voluntary chari-

Oral Questions

table organizations, and small businesses, at a time of growing economic distress, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That before Parliament adjourns for Christmas the government accepts its responsibility and announces changes in the postal rates to bring them to a more reasonable level, and especially that the Secretary of State takes the necessary action to cushion the shock of these rates to pensioners and charitable organizations, as has been suggested by the president of the postal corporation.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the presentation of this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROVISIONS

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. There is speculation that the ongoing saga of change in the minister's ill-fated budget will continue this Friday with some announcement in the House. Would the minister care to confirm that speculation today? Would he comment on the nature of the changes which he is proposing to make? Would he also say whether this would be part of an ongoing series of change that we can expect during the Christmas break?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I think, to be brief, the answer to each question is no. As the hon. member knows, I have been involved since the weekend with the provincial finance ministers at a conference, which has interrupted my intensive consideration of the representations that I have been receiving on the budget. Therefore it is not possible for me to indicate today when I may be making any announcements. All I can say, as I said to the Leader of the New Democratic Party last week, is that if I am prepared to do that before the House rises, I will certainly draw it to the attention of the House. But I am not prepared yet to say to the hon. member when that will be possible. When it is possible, I will certainly let him know.

PRE-BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, many people in the past month have seriously questioned the competence of the Minister of Finance as a result of the budget which he introduced. There is tremendous opposition to the budget. I think this is apparent in the many representations which have been made to him in the past few weeks. My question relates to the process which the minister used in