

such crises in other industries, such as the uranium industry, by initiating stockpiles to protect the jobs of the workers, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes):

That this House instruct the government to immediately commence a program of stockpiling nickel to the extent which is necessary to protect the jobs of the employees of INCO and Falconbridge Nickel in the Sudbury Basin.

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

RECOMMENDED REVISION OF POLICY TO ASSIST MINORITIES— MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): 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.

In view of the fact that Francophone minorities outside Quebec are in a precarious situation, that they are progressively and irremediably assimilated in spite of federal financial assistance, that they might be less in need of money than of rights and privileges, and also that considerable amounts are being spent in Quebec to protect its Anglophone minority whose linguistic and cultural existence is not jeopardized at all, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise):

That the Federal government streamline its policy of financial assistance to the minorities of Canada in order to render it more equitable and effective.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard 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: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before beginning the oral question period I know that all hon. members would want to join me in welcoming in our gallery the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by the distinguished vice president of the Bundesrat, Dr. Bernhard Vogel.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

RESOURCES

NICKEL MINES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVOID LAY-OFFS— SUGGESTED CONFERENCE WITH NORWAY

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, in view of the deplorable fact that over 20 of the cabinet ministers are absent today, some of whom at least should realize, even if the Prime Minister does not, that out of town cabinet meetings should not be held while this House is in session—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Where is Joe?

Mr. Lawrence: He is not attending an out of town cabinet meeting, I can tell you that. My question therefore is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the announcement this morning by Falconbridge Nickel Mines and of the fact that not long ago the minister had a conference with the chief executive officer of the corporation and that he has had a report in his possession dated at least a year ago prophesying exactly what would happen to the nickel industry, and because these matters were not unanticipated,—as a matter of fact, fairly well known—what specific steps is the government taking to alleviate the situation in the Canadian nickel industry, and what is the government going to do about the unemployed workers in the Sudbury basin?

● (1417)

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the hon. member that when the cabinet goes out of town it uses its time very effectively.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: It deals with the nation's business. We do not spend our time raising money for our party.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: Even Allan smiles at that one.

Mr. Gillespie: Where is your leader today? I do not think the preamble to the hon. member's question was particularly helpful, but he did ask an important question, and I would like to deal with it, if his colleagues would just quiet down a little bit.

If the hon. member has informed himself about this situation, he must know that the nickel industry in Canada, and to some extent the rest of the mining industry in Canada, is facing a very difficult time right now because of a softening in our major markets. This is not a situation the companies have created. It is a situation which the government is trying to ameliorate in any way it can. There are a number of different programs which are aimed at ameliorating this painful situa-