

S.O. 43

[English]

METRIC CONVERSION

MINISTER'S REPLY TO PETITIONERS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) in this House undertook publicly to write in person to every one of the 135,327 Canadians who petitioned their opposition to the mandatory imposition of the SI metric system. A form letter does not constitute a personal letter. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That this House urge all Canadians in every province and in every walk of life, especially the shopkeepers and their customers, to write directly to the minister, postage free, with copies to their own Member of Parliament so that every citizen may be sure to receive the minister's personal justification for the needless, costly and confusing program which threatens to rob Canadians of their freedom to choose.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ENERGY

SUGGESTED UNIFORM GASOLINE PRICING STANDARDS

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion respecting the serious matter of oil-pricing discrepancies that exist among the oil companies in Canada. Gasoline prices vary as much as 40 cents per gallon from one station to another, and retailers blame this on the lack of a uniform pricing formula and the fact that oil companies and the federal government are taking too large a share of the retail price of gasoline and oil. This has resulted in a province-wide strike of gasoline station operators in Quebec, and threatens to spill over into Ontario. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday):

● (1410)

That the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources take immediate steps to work out uniform pricing standards for oil companies to their wholesalers and retailers and that the minister direct Petro-Canada to desist from its policy of undercutting other gasoline retailers by offering better prices and terms than are offered by private sector companies.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

EDUCATION

FUNDING FOR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS' RESEARCH PROGRAMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that many post-secondary institutions face funding cuts as a result of changes to the Established Programs Financing Act, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Kushner):

That the government appoint a parliamentary task force to report on the state of fundamental and applied research done at Canadian post-secondary institutions and to suggest alternate means of funding so that current research efforts can be continued and hopefully expanded.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF BIDDING REGULATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Under present Treasury Board regulations, contractors bidding for government tenders must submit a certified cheque with the bid. However, certified cheques drawn on credit unions are considered to be unacceptable. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle):

That this House request that the government amend the regulations to end this discriminatory practice and thereby place Canadian credit unions and caisses populaires on a more equal footing with the chartered banks of Canada.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFFS AT INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER PLANT IN HAMILTON, ONT.—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, because of the government's high interest rate policy, because of its high energy costs, and because of continuing low commodity prices, 1,200 International Harvester workers have been laid off at the farm machinery plant in Hamilton, amounting to 80 per cent of International Harvesters 1,500