

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 26, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NORAD—SUGGESTION COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES BE IMPROVED—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 regarding a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that the United States and, presumably, the joint Canada-U.S. NORAD command centre knew in early December that there was a nuclear-powered cell aboard a malfunctioning Soviet satellite, and in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has been unable to explain why the Minister of National Defence did not receive this information until last week, and this information was withheld from the Prime Minister in spite of the fact that he skied into NORAD headquarters for his supposedly more than comprehensive briefing, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon):

That this government take measures to improve communications between the Canadian command and the Prime Minister before another crisis occurs.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for discussion at this time only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT RESPECTING SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the urgency of this matter increases month to month, so I am going to try again.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House urges the government to introduce without delay an amendment to the Old Age Security Act to provide for the spouse's allowance to be replaced by an equivalent allowance to be paid to all persons between the ages of

60 and 65, including widows, spinsters, widowers and bachelors as well as spouses, provided they are out of the labour market.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented, pursuant to the Standing Order, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I move a motion under Standing Order 43, seconded by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro). In view of the statement of the Commissioner of Official Languages that the bilingual bonus program of the government is a comedy of errors, is not one of the government's best moves and has been inevitably unsuccessful, and since it has caused ill-will, jealousy and a sense of discrimination in the public service, I move:

That the government be condemned for its shortsightedness in respect of this costly program and that it be terminated forthwith.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for discussion, pursuant to the Standing Order, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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GRAIN

REQUEST INITIATIVES BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE WEST COAST HANDLING FACILITIES—MOTION UNDER S. O. 43

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, now that grain movements from west coast ports have reached crisis proportions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski):

That the Minister of Agriculture immediately announce new initiatives for the Prince Rupert elevator in order that it may quickly reach its potential of 50 million to 60 million bushels, thereby alleviating congestion at Vancouver and helping prairie farm income.