

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE LATE ALBERT ROUSSEAU, QUEBEC ARTISTEXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE TO MRS. OLIVETTE ROUSSEAU—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Frontenac): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43, and I ask the unanimous consent of the House in order to pay a last tribute to a great Canadian and a great artist. I am referring to Mr. Albert Rousseau, a Quebec painter who died yesterday in St. Étienne de Lévis at the age of 73. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead (Mr. Tessier):

That this House salutes today the great talent of Albert Rousseau, a Quebec artist, and sends its most sincere condolences to Mrs. Olivette Rousseau and her family and thanks for a last time Mr. Rousseau for his contribution as an artist, as a Canadian and as a Quebecer.

In his own way, he was a distinguished Canadian, and I feel this should be recognized by the House, on behalf of all members and of the Government of Canada.

Madam Speaker: Order, please! This motion requires unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: The House has heard the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion adopted.

● (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

THE BUDGET—REQUEST FOR CHANGES

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The 1.2 per cent increase in the consumer price index announced this morning is one more nail in the coffin of the November 12, 1981, budget. The budget has done nothing for Canadians who are suffering from the effects of lay-offs and the high cost of living. Unemployment has increased since the budget was brought down, and the broadest indication of economic performance and economic mismanagement of the government is the value of the Canadian dollar, which has dropped almost to an all-time low in the period since the budget. When will the minister listen to Canadians and bring in changes to the budget to deal with these problems? When will the minister

show Canadians that he means business about fighting inflation?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member might have been influenced by the debate yesterday on parliamentary procedure to try to develop a question that is more in accordance with the rules of the House. If the hon. member wants to make a speech each time he gets up to ask a question—

Mr. Crosbie: Answer the question.

Mr. MacEachen:—then, of course, he will get a speech in return. If he wants to ask questions, then he will get answers to them.

Mr. Nielsen: That will be new.

Mr. MacEachen: The hon. member asked two specific questions, the first about changes to the budget. The hon. member may not have been in the House yesterday but I answered that question which was asked by another hon. member, and he can refer to *Hansard* to get the answer. As to his second question, the government is deadly serious—

Mr. Nielsen: Deadly is right.

Mr. MacEachen:—about its determination to bring down inflation. It has set out a monetary policy and a fiscal policy that are geared to bring down inflation. But it is extraordinary that most of the questions asked by the opposition are intended either to undermine the current stance of fiscal policy or to undermine the current stance of monetary policy, both of which are intended to have some effect on the inflationary forces.

INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET LEGISLATION

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, we have heard words on that subject for about ten years now. What Canadians are looking for is action from the minister.

Mr. MacEachen: How about a question instead of a speech?

Mr. Wilson: We had a comment yesterday from the Solicitor General who very astutely observed that the budget was a disaster and it was seriously flawed.

Mr. MacEachen: Never mind the speeches.

Mr. Wilson: Let me give the minister a very simple and direct question. The minister could have brought in his budget legislation two and a half weeks ago. The government did not have to provoke the opposition with the energy security act. Why did the minister not bring in budget legislation two and a half weeks ago before introducing the energy security act? When is the minister proposing to bring in that legislation so that this House can get around to dealing with the problems in the economy?