

● (1115)

That this House request the Secretary of State to negotiate a new funding agreement which would at least hold federal funding assistance to last year's level.

Madam Speaker: 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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AIR SAFETY

UPDATING OF SAFETY PROCEDURES AT AIRPORTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Given the recent statements made at the Dubin inquiry into air safety, which stated that the federal government is to blame for most safety problems at airports and that new commercial pilots are not receiving adequate training to be considered safe, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That this House instruct the Minister of Transport to make an immediate statement on motions as to what steps he will be taking to ensure that safety procedures will be updated and to give immediately a firm commitment to the Canadian people and Parliament regarding what measures he will be taking to ensure the safety of commercial and private air travel in Canada.

Madam Speaker: Presentation of this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF PRESENTATION

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): My question is for the Minister of Finance, Madam Speaker. There have been a number of forecasts, including the minister's own, the Conference Board in Canada and so on, which have given us gloomy forecasts. I refer the minister to the forecast of the Toronto-Dominion Bank. The bank forecasts a 1 per cent decline in real GNP for this year with very slow recovery next year, that the CPI will be up 10.3 per cent next year, while the Conference Board forecast 10.5 per cent. Unemployment next year will average 8.4 per cent and real business investment is going to go down from a 9.4 per cent real increase last year to 5.5 per cent this year, and decline again to only 3 per cent in 1981.

Oral Questions

In view of these forecasts, could the minister give the House a firm date for his budget? Is it October 23? Will the minister bring in a budget which has the fiscal solutions promised by him and his party last December and January, and, in particular, one that cuts taxes and stimulates the growth of the Canadian economy?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that when the budget comes forward it will implement the pledges made by the leader of the Liberal party on fiscal matters in the last election campaign.

In answer to the other part of the question as to the date of the budget, I have not determined the date but I want to tell the hon. member that it will not be October 23.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, this is the most timid Minister of Finance in our history. If the Prime Minister could be said to be the Lone Ranger, the minister is certainly Tonto.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Get him up, Scout!

Mr. Crosbie: "Kemo Sabe". The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce spoke to the Chamber of Commerce in Quebec City on September 25. He warned them that it would be "unwise to expect too much too soon by way of economic recovery". He has no faith in his Minister of Finance. He said this: "Circumstances permit no magical fiscal solutions to the cyclical economic downturn", such as a stimulative budget. Does the Minister of Finance agree with his lugubrious colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, if the hon. member wants me to agree that there is no quick solution to the current economic difficulties and that there is no solution solely in injecting a larger deficit into the economy, if that is the burden of the question I certainly agree, Madam Speaker, with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, if the minister agrees with his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and if he agreed with his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce last December, when he said that there were quick solutions, that the economy could be stimulated and that there were magical fiscal solutions, what has caused this reversal, this turnaround, this spinning of the last eight months? Has the minister just come to the realization that there is a problem? Why is he not prepared now to offer the solutions which he offered last fall?

● (1120)

Mr. MacEachen: The hon. gentleman is building up in his own mind a series of propositions which he is attempting to put forward as ones that I have in the past endorsed as a way of improving the economic situation. If he looks back, he will find in the Liberal platform during the last campaign that the promises made were carefully thought out, and they will be