

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, January 26, 1973

The House met at 11 a.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INDUSTRY

#### AUTOMOBILES—PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby is seeking the consent of the House to return to motions for the purpose of proposing a motion. Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Thank you for your courtesy, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move a motion under Standing Order 43. The motion arises out of the revelation in an article in the *Financial Post* of tomorrow's date in which the president of General Motors of Canada asserts that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce made no serious effort to get his company to bring down the prices of their automobiles.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, specifically asserted that this year's 7 per cent reduction in corporation tax had better be reflected in lower prices for automobiles. However, the president of General Motors had anticipated that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would appropriately threaten the withdrawal of the tax reduction from the automotive industry, having said, "Hell, that's where the strength was."

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member. He knows what the rule is. He should indicate what the motion is that he proposes to present to the House.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I will move to the motion. If I may finish the quotation, the president of the company went on to say, "I kept waiting for Mr. Gillespie to bring up tax cuts on the phone, but he never mentioned them." Therefore, in view of the continuing unjustified price differential between North American cars sold in Canada and the United States, I move, seconded, by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez):

That this subject be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before putting the hon. member's motion to the House I must again bring to the attention of hon. members my qualms and doubts as to the propriety of including accusations or charges in

motions brought under Standing Order 43. Hon. members know that this Standing Order, as we have interpreted it in recent years, does not make it possible for other members whose conduct may be impugned in the statement made in proposing a motion under Standing Order 43 to be given an opportunity for reply. I would think the kind of statement included in the hon. member's proposed motion is a debate and I very much doubt that it is in order. Normally I would hesitate to accept the motion, but to save time and to avoid becoming involved in a long point of order I will ask whether there is unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion cannot be put.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### INCREASE IN WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX—EFFECT ON COST OF LIVING—MEASURES TO MITIGATE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a question in light of the increase of 11 per cent in the wholesale price index in the past 12 months. May I ask the minister whether the government has made any projection as to the effect of an increase in wholesale prices of this magnitude upon the cost of living index and whether, in light of any such projection, the government is taking any special measures to mitigate the effect of this increase in wholesale prices on the cost of living other than establishing a committee of the House to study food prices?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the government is following the situation very closely. With respect to questions like this dealing with general trends in the economy, perhaps the Minister of Finance would be the more appropriate minister to whom to direct such questions.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Minister of Finance for putting him on the spot at the request of his colleague. Can he tell us whether the government has made any projection of the effect of the 11 per cent increase in wholesale prices upon the cost of living index in the country and whether, in light of any such projection, which I assume it is the responsibility of the govern-