

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 9, 1973

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FISHERIES RESEARCH BOARD

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1971

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table the annual report of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada for the calendar year 1971.

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ENERGY

FUEL OIL PRICE INCREASE—POSSIBLE SHORTAGE—
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the recently announced increase in the price of fuel oil by Shell Canada Limited, the cut-back in fuel oil deliveries in the United States, and the estimate by the responsible minister in the province of Alberta that Canada may face a shortage of oil in a matter of months, I ask unanimous consent under Standing Order 43 to move the following motion:

That the government ask the National Energy Board of Canada to make an immediate report on this critical situation, along with its recommendations to safeguard the Canadian users of fuel oil and related petroleum products against unwarranted price increases and the possible shortage of supplies.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. Under Standing Order 43 this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The motion therefore cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR LIST OF GOVERNMENT
MEASURES TO REDUCE LEVEL

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, while yesterday the Prime Minister ignored my request that he state the policy of his government to increase employment I should like to ask him today whether he is prepared through this House to tell the 580,000 unemployed Canadians, as reported for the month of December—6.8 per cent of the working force—what his program is to reduce unemployment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer would be in terms which were already mentioned in the Speech from the Throne about measures which have been taken and, of course, measures which will be taken in the industrial sector, plus an answer in terms of the budget speech which we expect will be fairly soon and which will announce a whole series of measures to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, we have had these budgets before. Will the Prime Minister give the House the assurance that his Minister of Finance will list fully today and in a very concrete fashion the measures the government proposes to take to reduce unemployment?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance will be participating in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. He will be answering in part the questions of the Leader of the Opposition. I am sure he will not be able to make a statement of a budgetary nature but I repeat that he will repeat his commitment to make a budgetary speech in the early future.

Mr. Stanfield: Indeed he will do that, but I should like to ask whether the Prime Minister can give us the assurance today that at least the 3 per cent increase in personal income tax which came into effect as of January 1, with its effects on employment, the economy and inflation, will be repealed, or does he feel that the corporations are entitled to more information concerning the taxes they will have to pay this year than individual Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE INCREASE
IN FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE JOBS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask some supplementary questions on the same subject. Perhaps I will direct them to start with to the Minister of