

## S.O. 43

of talented research experts, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That this House condemn the government's action in closing these forestry stations and instruct the ministry of the environment to rescind the budget cuts that have led to their closing.

**Mr. Speaker:** Presentation of such a motion for debate at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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## AGRICULTURE

## FUNDING OF CANFARM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the fact that farmers in my riding of Brant—and, indeed, across Canada—have come to depend on Canfarm for farm management services that are vital to their farming operations, in light of the fact that farmers across Canada have indicated their willingness to pay fees up to five times higher than at present for these services, and in light of the fact that the federal government has made a considerable investment in Canfarm over the past 12 years, making it one of the best farm management programs in the world, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters):

That the Minister of Agriculture be instructed to continue funding Canfarm or, failing that, to maintain Canfarm's services at least until a suitable private or public institution is found to take over its operation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The introduction of such a motion for debate at this time would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## FORECASTS OF GROWTH—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on November 9, 1977, at Winnipeg, that "we are on the threshold of tremendous growth", and in view of the fact that on October 4, 1978, in a speech at Sarnia to the Chemical Institute of Canada, the minister stated that "the Canadian economy is entering a period of stable growth", I move, seconded by the

[Mr. Peters.]

hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty):

That this honourable House request the minister to clarify his economic predictions and to advise the House whether or not his two views can be reconciled, and whether he now believes that we are on the threshold of tremendously stable growth or entering a period of stable tremendous growth, since many economic forecasters cannot proceed with their forecasts until this apparent discrepancy is accounted for.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS

## INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, because of the serious omission from the Speech from the Throne of any reference to Canada's veterans or their survivors, I ask leave to present a motion under Standing Order 43. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters):

That this House calls on the Minister of Veterans Affairs to introduce at an early date the amendments to the War Veterans Allowance Act which were promised during the last session, and also to introduce an amendment to the Pension Act to provide for pro rata pensions for widows of disabled veterans where the disability of the veteran was assessed below 48 per cent, it being clearly recognized that these measures would be dealt with very quickly by this House of Commons.

**Mr. Speaker:** The presentation of such a motion for discussion at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

● (1412)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## EFFECT OF DEVALUED CANADIAN DOLLAR

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that we have lost \$4.7 billion of foreign exchange in the recent past, at the rate of \$390 million a month which has been flowing out since the minister took office, would he indicate if he anticipates that we in Canada will have to go to still higher interest rates, bearing in mind the unemployment in the country and in view of the fact that the American prime rates are now on the way up again, with Chase Manhattan increasing its rate to 10 per cent prime this morning?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to speculate on the monetary policies of the