

policies of the federal government, I move, seconded by the hon. member for North Vancouver-Burnaby (Mr. Cook):

That the Joint Government-Industry Task Force on Mining be requested to meet immediately on an emergency basis to develop a strategic action plan which will save the jobs of more than 200,000 mine and service workers faced with extended shutdowns and lay-offs, and that the task force be requested to report its recommendations to the Parliamentary Committees on Natural Resources and Public Works, and on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, before the end of June.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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HOUSING

CANADA RENTAL SUPPLY PROGRAM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation bulletin for builders advertises the Canadian Rental Supply Program which promotes the construction of rental units. In Manitoba, the Winnipeg regional office has restricted this program to Winnipeg and Brandon. Contractors in other areas, such as the riding of Dauphin and the riding of Churchill, where there are centres with either a zero or low vacancy rate, are calling this discriminatory. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy):

• (1115)

That the Minister of Public Works responsible for housing look into this situation and immediately take some action so that contractors in communities outside of Winnipeg and Brandon can benefit under this program.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO AVERT BANKRUPTCIES

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Yesterday, before the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, the chairman of the Trust Companies Association said that there could be casualties in that industry if the present economic conditions last for another six months. Since many

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companies in other industries besides that one are now talking in terms of how many months they will be able to survive under the economic conditions which exist today, will the minister commit to the House that he will present alternative policies in his forthcoming financial statement that will avoid those disasters and lay-offs which will come if companies go bust over the next six months?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member a preview of what will be in that statement. I have already indicated to his leader that I intend to make a financial and economic statement, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition. I have assured hon. members that it will be made in the House. I cannot give the hon. member any preview of what will be in that statement at the present time.

POSITION OF MINISTER

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, I am not asking for a preview of the statement. What I am asking, and what Canadians are asking, is whether there is any sense of understanding on the part of the minister that there is a crisis on our hands. The minister's head is in the sand. Both he and the Prime Minister seem to have more interest in going to international meetings than acting to solve these problems in Canada which we can do something about.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson: Is the reason for the minister's dithering about these problems the fact that he still thinks his 1981 budget is the answer to our economic mess, or is it because he has totally lost confidence in his ability to present these policies since he is now batting zero for two in budget making?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member's question is really not directed either to government policy or government administration. It is a series of political comments which generally decorate his rather futile questions in question period.

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FORESTRY

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. The British Columbia forest industry, which directly or indirectly accounts for half of the total output of British Columbia, is in such dire straits that companies are borrowing money just to keep their plants operating. The president of MacMillan Bloedel now warns that Canada faces the possibility of economic collapse within 90 days unless the government brings forward emergency measures. Is the minister meeting with forest industry