

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, December 22, 1978

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1107)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE

ACCOUNTING METHOD FOR FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND CHILD TAX CREDIT PROGRAM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering that this administration has consistently refused to be specific about the serious long-range expenditure and revenue implications of the family allowance and refundable child tax credit program, and noting that the Department of Finance has criticized the very method the government used to implement the program, both calling the accounting of it "somewhat artificial" and suggesting that refundable tax credits should be presented as explicit expenditures, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. de Cotret):

That this House refer the method of accounting for the family allowance and refundable child tax credit program to the Auditor General, so that he may determine whether the revenue and expenditure implications of the program are being presented properly in the accounts, so that he may discover whether the government is aware of the long-range financial implications of the program.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be introduced only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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TRADE

SALE OF SURPLUS GRAIN ON EXPORT MARKET—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion, under Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Because a larger than normal crop usually produces a surplus above that the Canadian market can absorb and drives prices down, and in order to maintain farm prices at a level which will give our farmers a satisfactory return for the capital

and labour they put into their year's operations, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday):

That this House direct the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to, in future, sell such surpluses in the export market for the best price obtainable, thus removing the downward pressure from the Canadian market and enabling Canadian farmers to receive a fair return for their year's work.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the presentation of such a motion for debate?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE DRYDOCK AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In view of the fact that the drydock in Saint John, New Brunswick, has been pledged \$10 million toward expansion to allow that dock to undergo ship repairs—and we welcome that news because it will provide badly needed jobs in Saint John—I move, seconded by my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie):

That the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce act immediately on the application made nine months ago to provide the \$8 million for the Government of Canada drydock in St. John's, Newfoundland, to instal a synchrolift, thus increasing employment by some 200 and giving the drydock the facilities to enter into major contracts already arranged for the repair of foreign fishing vessels as well as handling all work offered.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be introduced for debate at this time only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

MEASURE TO READJUST ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN ONTARIO—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent, under Standing Order 43, in the spirit of Christmas, there having been discussion for some time among the parties.