

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 23, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: As there is not unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

JUDGMENT IN CONTROVERTED ELECTION IN VANCOUVER EAST

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Honourable Mr. Chief Justice N. T. Nemetz and the Honourable Mr. Justice E. D. Fulton, both of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the two judges appointed for the trial of a petition pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, a certificate of judgment in the matter of an election in the electoral district of Vancouver East.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PROPOSED CREATION OF FOOD MINISTRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, I request unanimous consent of the House to present a motion on an important and urgent matter.

In view of the increasingly obvious need for adopting clear and specific policies on the food sector which will again be affected this year by considerably higher costs and so affect Canadian consumers as well, and as the farming sector is up against certain difficulties including, for instance, an expected much lower farm income for the year in spite of relentlessly higher production costs, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House now study the recommendation made recently by the Food Prices Review Board for setting up at provincial and federal government levels a food ministry entrusted with the formulation of a coherent food policy, and that this House analyze any proposal of similar nature capable of ensuring balance between food production and food consumption, thus sparing all Canadians, producers and consumers, the consequences of the lack of planning in that sphere.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, the motion requires unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REFERENCE TO LENGTH OF SESSION

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before beginning the oral question period, may I call to the attention of hon. members that the longest session in the history of the Parliament of Canada was one lasting 250 days, the two hundred and fiftieth day falling on May 8, 1967. This day is the two hundred and fiftieth day of the current session of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Lawrence: This has been one of the least productive of sessions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

● (1410)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON HOSTAGE TAKING AT CANADIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND SECURITY PROVISIONS AT EMBASSIES

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, may I thank all my colleagues in this House for this very moving expression of their friendship. This is one of the moments when I am proud of being a Canadian.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, because of the great concern in Canada over the security of our chargé d'affaires and eight other Canadians who are members of the Canadian embassy personnel at Beirut.

Can the minister advise the House, and the country, what steps the Canadian government has taken and intends to take, subject of course to the threat too elabo-