

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

SETTLEMENT OF NORDAIR OWNERSHIP—REQUEST THAT INTERESTS OF QUEBEC AND NORTHERN TERRITORIES BE PROTECTED—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion concerning an urgent matter.

Since the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) seems incapable of making a decision about which group ought to be able to buy Air Canada's interest in Nordair, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour):

That the Minister of Transport quickly settle the issue of Nordair's ownership and make sure that when this matter is finalized the interests of Quebec and of the Northwest Territories are adequately protected.

Madam Speaker: The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1415)

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

RECOMMENDED PATRIATION WITH VANCOUVER AMENDING FORMULA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Whereas Canada is a federation of ten provinces and two territories, and whereas a majority of the provinces favour the patriation of the Constitution with an amending formula only, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields):

That this House recommends, in the interest of Canadian unity, that our Constitution be patriated with the Vancouver amending formula, and that all other changes be made in Canada by Canadians through their Parliament and legislatures.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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PENSIONS

CALL FOR INCREASE IN OLD AGE SECURITY PENSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, and seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), I move:

That this House recognizes that couples 65 years of age or over have to spend one fifth of their income on food, and that food prices are rising at the rate of 14 or 15 per cent, which means that the present system of indexing falls short of enabling senior citizens to remain above the poverty line, and this House therefore calls on the government to implement its promise to provide help where help is needed by making an immediate increase in the rate of the pension paid to Canada's senior citizens.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

MINISTER'S STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO CABINET'S POSITION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. According to the minister's minutes of his meeting of December 19, the minister said:

In cabinet we are extremely attached to the charter. If we had to, we would put it ahead of patriation.

Was the minister speaking on behalf of the government when he made that statement?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the statement, "In cabinet we are extremely attached to the charter." is certainly self-evident. The other statement was my interpretation of people's views. As I said the other day, it is not a matter which has ever been discussed in cabinet, to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I would then like to put a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is it the position of the Government of Canada that, given a choice, as suggested by