

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, July 11, 1975

The House met at 11 a.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN BASIC AMOUNT OF OLD AGE PENSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The motion speaks for itself. I hope the House will support it. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow):

That this House, aware of the special burden imposed on old age pensioners by the inordinate rise in the cost of food as reported today by Statistics Canada, calls on the government to take whatever steps are necessary to provide a substantial increase in the basic amount of the Old Age Security pension.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 cannot be presented without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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### AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR ANOTHER INQUEST INTO CRASH OF PANARCTIC AIRCRAFT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Because death certificates have not been issued to date for those who died in the Panarctic airplane crash, and as the inquest seems to have reached an impasse in securing all the necessary information, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers):

That the House request the minister to hold another inquest in the appropriate province in order that the co-pilot and flight engineer can be subpoenaed to appear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

SUGGESTED RECONSIDERATION OF BUDGETARY MEASURES WHICH AFFECT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN VIEW OF INCREASE

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance? Considering the impact the 1.5 increase in the Consumer Price Index announced today by Statistics Canada and the government's budgetary thrust will have on low income earners and pensioners in Canada, and as the Conference Board of Canada predicts that the budget will raise the Consumer Price Index an additional 1.7 per cent, will the minister reconsider some budgetary measures which weight so heavily and cruelly on the poor and pensioners of this country?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we are all disturbed by the abrupt increase shown by the price index this morning. Three fifths of the increase is directly attributable to the higher prices of food products, particularly to the 18 per cent increase in beef prices. As for the budgetary policy of the government, that is currently before the House and was set forth two weeks ago.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As food prices have increased substantially, something to which the minister alluded, the increase of 3.3 per cent last month being the largest increase in three years, and as, under the government's current budgetary proposals now before the House, unemployment insurance benefits for low income earners are to be reduced and old age pensioners are to be eliminated from unemployment insurance rolls, their incomes thereby being substantially reduced, what measures is the minister prepared to consider, in view of the substantially increased price of food, in order to bring relief to pensioners and low income earners of this country?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the preamble to the hon. gentleman's question. He is fully entitled to argue it in debate.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, fortunately the people of Canada do not accept the minister or his budget.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!