

and since it is increasingly evident that civilians are the target of military operations in that country, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras):

That the House asks the Secretary of State for External Affairs to send his Syrian counterpart a note asking the Syrian government to order its deterrent forces posted in Lebanon to stop any operation against Lebanese civilians or those of any other nationality, as evidence of their respect for life and basic freedom principles.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

SUPPORT FOR FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Whereas Canada's trade deficit in manufactured foods and beverages is increasing rapidly, and whereas even the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has admitted that of the \$4.7 billion in food products imported into this country some \$2.5 billion in manufactured foods, semi-processed meat and fish products could have been processed in Canada, and whereas the food processing industry is the largest employer in seven of the ten provinces, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise):

That this House censure the government for its lack of support and encouragement to the Canadian food processors and Canadian agriculture, and further that this House direct the government to devise immediately and put into effect a Canadian food policy designed to increase Canadian self-sufficiency in the production and processing of food.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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METRIC CONVERSION

ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF F-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MEASUREMENTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, on page 45 of the seventh annual report of the Metric Commission there is a picture of Canada's new fighter aircraft, the CF-18A, and attached is a caption describing the specifications of the aircraft in metric. As both McDonnell Douglas

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and the Department of National Defence informed me "This CF-18A is built entirely to imperial specifications", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise):

● (1415)

That this House censure the executive director of the Metric Commission for intentionally allowing to be published erroneous information designed to suggest that the aerospace industry in North America is metric when in reality it is still imperial.

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 ECONOMY

MEASURES TO COMBAT INFLATION AND STIMULATE GROWTH

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who, for a few weeks now, has been hiding behind the constitutional skirts of the Prime Minister. The minister will know that mortgage rates have just gone up again to 16.5 per cent, U.S. interest rates are tending upwards again, inflation is running over 12 per cent, and the Canadian dollar is still vulnerable.

The Conference Board of Canada, in its first quarterly report, has concluded that the inflation rate, high interest rates, and the investment outlook plagued by the energy conflict between the federal government and the provinces, will prevent any sustained economic recovery in 1981. Would the minister now tell us what concrete steps he is taking to stop the increased interest rates or to dampen down inflation or to stimulate real economic recovery in 1981, in view of these forecasts?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, first of all the hon. member should not complain about how the question period has been going during the last several weeks. If it has been devoted to the Constitution, it is because the Leader of the Opposition and the other front benchers have totally ignored the economy—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen:—and concentrated on the Constitution.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!