

## PENSIONS

PROTECTION FOR RAILWAY PENSIONERS—MOTION UNDER  
S.O. 43

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, particularly for retired railway workers. In view of the fact that any increase under the pension plan administered by the Canadian National Railways to its pensioners is administered on an ad hoc basis and in an irregular fashion, offering the least protection to pensioners who retired before 1973; in view of the fact that pensioners under the plan administered by the Canadian Pacific Railway received even less assistance than those under the CNR plan; and in view of the fact that few of the worth-while recommendations first enunciated four years ago in the Hall report have been implemented, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers):

That this House urge the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Labour to contact officials of the CNR and CPR, and also urge those unions which represent retired railway workers to lobby aggressively on their behalf, with the over-all purpose of ensuring more adequate protection for those pensioners who have little protection from the ravages imposed by an ever-increasing cost of living.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## POLICING SERVICES IN PROVINCES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that the senior assistant deputy minister in the Solicitor General's department last week threatened the eight provincial governments with RCMP contracts that unless the provinces agreed to a contract with the federal government the government would go ahead and charge the new rates anyway; and in view of the fact that these rates represent an increase of over 100 per cent in some cases and are an intolerable raid on provincial and municipal treasuries, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Ittinuar):

That this House urge the Solicitor General to end his policy of confrontation tactics with the provinces on RCMP contract negotiations, make a far more equitable proposal to the provinces and municipalities on costs, and particularly on accountability of the RCMP to the provincial attorneys general, and stop taking actions which may very well threaten the break-up of the RCMP in Canada.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## Oral Questions

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

TRANSFERS AND EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS—MOTION UNDER  
S.O. 43

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter which might find agreement on all sides of the House. The present agreement between the federal government and the provinces with regard to equalization expires on March 31, 1982. The agreement must be written and it is essential that Parliament be involved in this process. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That this House direct the President of the Privy Council to create a task force of seven members of Parliament to investigate on behalf of this House all transfers and equalization arrangements between the federal government, the provinces and the territories, so that an equitable arrangement for sharing revenue can be determined without confrontation prior to the expiry date of the existing agreement.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

## ALLEGED ADVERSE EFFECT ON ECONOMY

**Mr. Len. Gustafson (Assiniboia):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The economic situation in Canada is a very serious one at this time, as the minister knows. Will the minister take the necessary steps to give oil production first priority so that the economic picture in Canada may be strengthened? The minister's policies are driving out the industry—oil rigs, expertise and capital—to the United States. Is the minister aware that his policy is having an adverse effect on the whole economy of Canada, turning us into a nation which is begging for oil rather than a leading nation in the industry?

● (1415)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, as of January 20 there were in Canada 532 active rigs compared to 496 on January 22, 1980, one year ago. In effect, drilling activity has been maintained at an appreciably higher level than during the same period in 1980. The petroleum industry is a very fundamental industry. The position of the government is stated in the Speech from the Throne and in "The National Energy Program", and is that the energy sector should be the motor or main engine of the Canadian economy in the 1980s. This is the position of the government, and that is why we have put forward an energy