

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I wanted to table some documents but I fear I missed my opportunity. I therefore seek the consent of the House to table the text of an agreement between Alberta and British Columbia and of an agreement between the Government of Canada and British Columbia.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to let the Minister table forthwith a document, as he intended to do?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: It is agreed.

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ENERGY

TABLING OF AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA OF JOINT STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND OF PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND FISCAL MEASURES

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table, in both official languages, copies of an agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta on pricing and taxation of energy resources as well as the joint statement by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of British Columbia on oil and gas prices and on the relevant tax measures. By courtesy, copies have already been distributed to members.

[English]

Madam Speaker: I have received three notices of motion for emergency debates, two of which are quite similar in nature. Since I received the one from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) first, I will allow him to make his statement first.

MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

[English]

THE ECONOMY

ALLEGED ECONOMIC CRISIS FACING CANADIANS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I rise to ask leave of the House of Commons, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), to move the adjournment of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the economic crisis facing Canadians today.

S.O. 26

[Translation]

Over the three-month long summer recess, interest rates reached record highs and, in spite of minor fluctuations, they are not likely to fall below their current level in the foreseeable future. These rates have pushed Canada gradually toward a recession and have compelled many Canadians to either sell or give up their homes.

● (1540)

[English]

Canadians who have invested carefully in the future find themselves penalized by economic policies they could not have anticipated and from which there is absolutely no protection. I believe it is proper and necessary for the House to debate this spreading paralysis in the economic life of Canada so that the views of the House of Commons will be taken into account by the government as it prepares its fall budget—a budget which must find the means to halt the decline in economic performance before the current tragedy deepens.

This matter, Madam Speaker, is particularly urgent, given the refusal of the Government of Canada even today to indicate the date of a budget that could begin to address these problems. If you accept this application for debate, Madam Speaker, I am naturally prepared to move the appropriate motion.

Madam Speaker: The Chair does recognize the importance of the matter raised by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark). In making a determination there are certain criteria set out in the Standing Orders that have to be considered, and that is what I have done in light of the notice which the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has sent me.

For instance, the provisions of Section 16(d) of Standing Order 26 are, of course, very clear. It reads as follows:

—the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session pursuant to the provisions of this Standing Order;—

As hon. members are aware, the subject of the economic conditions of this country was discussed, referring to some of the same matters mentioned in the advice, on December 18 and 19 of last year in a marathon debate under the provisions of this Standing Order. This is still the same session.

The Chair has on other occasions tended to resist applications dealing with matters that appear to be of a chronic or continuing nature, as opposed to sudden or unexpected occurrences.

[Translation]

Although I recognize the merits of the arguments put forward by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) in his motion, I waver but I cannot in view of the rules of this House and the remarks I have just made, authorize an emergency debate, as requested by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am sure he will have a great many other opportunities to deal with these important issues in the House and I urge him to avail himself of these opportunities as they arise.