

● (1510)

On several Thursdays earlier in the session, the minister made reference to the freedom of information bill. It seems to have been forgotten. Is there any reason why it could not be dealt with and sent to committee before we break for the Christmas recess? That might be a better piece of work than the judges' bill.

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, the hon. member will understand that if we are to adjourn on December 19, there will be only seven days left. I have had discussions with him this morning and with my other colleague from the Conservative party. We discussed the different pieces of legislation which I have just mentioned. It is certain that the access to information bill has our high priority, but I do not think it can be concluded that, because we are not able to deal with the bill quickly before Christmas, we are not giving the necessary priority to that bill.

I wish to state very firmly that this bill is very important to us, but some time last week or a week ago it was mentioned on the floor of the House that it would not be possible to obtain second reading of that bill in one day. That being the case, I think it would not be reasonable for us to take more than one or two days on the second reading stage of that bill, because we would then prevent other pieces of legislation from being referred to committees. That is the reason why we think that in the next seven days it will be difficult to give second reading to the bill. However, I want to confirm to the hon. member that as soon as possible following the Christmas recess we will ensure that the bill is referred to committee, and I will call for the co-operation of all parties on the other side.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the suggestion of the President of the Privy Council concerning the ways and means proceedings Nos. 6, 7, and 16, which will be called as the first items under government orders and that the bill based thereon, after second reading, be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. Is this motion agreed to?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Madam Speaker:** It is so ordered.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

### FINANCE

#### EFFECT OF RISING INTEREST RATES

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I am rising under the provisions of Standing Order 26 as a result of the deeply disturbing news which we heard today that the Bank of Canada is raising its interest rate to a record 16.14

### Order Paper Questions

per cent. I ask leave, therefore, seconded by the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the announcement by the Bank of Canada today with the government's approval that interest rates will be further increased to a record level threatening the economic livelihood of most sectors of the Canadian economy, the ability of Canadian families to cope with the basic necessities of life, and leading to the worst winter in terms of a combination of inflation and unemployment since World War II.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) has given me notice of his motion under Standing Order 26, as is required under the provisions of the order. I have examined his statement and I find that the problem raised by the hon. member is obviously a very important one. It refers to a situation which undoubtedly has a certain character of urgency. At the same time, I am sure that it is a matter of continuing interest to all members of the House.

As everyone knows, there has been a pattern of changing interest rates in recent months, including the announcement today by the Bank of Canada that interest rates will further be increased. The inevitable conclusion is that the problem is of continuing concern. As evidence of this, the Chair need only refer to the fact that recently there have been a number of motions moved by hon. members under the provisions of Standing Order 43, as well as a number of oral questions directed to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) and other ministers on this very matter. The fact that the House has already been dealing with the situation for some time is an indication to the Chair that we have a problem which is of a continuing nature, and in this sense I feel that it does not fall within the purview of Standing Order 26.

For those reasons, I regret very much that it is not possible at this time to put to the House the motion proposed by the hon. member for Oshawa.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,490, 1,629, 1,657 and 1,668.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.