

Food Prices Committee

A special joint committee suggested in this motion may have some semblance of merit in relation to long-term planning. A joint committee is no answer to a short term crisis. The housewives of Perth-Wilmot who are waiting with apprehension this very moment in our grocery stores are not able to form their joint committee. Those on fixed incomes, particularly our senior citizens, who must salvage what is left of December's cheques to humbly feed themselves for at least another week are not able to form a joint committee. The mothers of large families who dedicate a large part of their lives to attempting to supply their children with a reasonable diet cannot form a joint committee.

The minister moves that this House rescue him from the indefensible position of his government which has done nothing about a crisis situation for over four years. If there is a glimmer of hope for any short-term relief for the housewife, the pensioner, the mother in this nation, then I believe the minister will find the support he seeks. But I respectfully request him to look for hope and not to hide behind this motion in unrealistic expectation that it will bail this government out of the deep hole into which they have dug themselves.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock, it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Manpower—Local Initiative Programs—Request for statement on progress in approving projects; the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Harney)—Canadian National Railways—Terms of Loan from Pension Fund to Fidinam (Ontario) Limited—Inquiry as to leasing by railway of part of Upper Canada Place; the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski)—Air Transport—Northern Canada—Inquiry as to program for installation of improved navigational aids.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions, private bills, public bills. As there are no notices of motions (papers) or private bills, the House will proceed directly to private members' public bills.

Hon. members will recall that when 120 private members public bills were introduced last Monday in accordance with long standing practice, since it was not possible for the Chair to review the provisions of each and every one to determine their procedural acceptability, it was agreed that they should be deemed to be introduced, given first reading, and ordered to be printed subject to subsequent examination.

I have now had an opportunity to examine most of these bills and should like to enumerate a number of them

[Mr. Jarvis.]

which, in my view at least, appear to be money bills. Initially, there is the second item on the list of public bills, Bill C-6, an act to amend the National Housing Act, in the name of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) and number 24, introduced by the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands (Miss MacDonald). There is No. 26, Bill No. C-30, introduced by the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart); No. 29, an act to provide for the constitution of a Federal Transport Commission of Inquiry; and a bill standing in the name of the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt), an act respecting rate fares for disabled persons on federal modes of transport, which is No. 41 on the list.

• (1700)

I am afraid that not too many of those further down the list will be reached, but there is also No. 88, an act to establish a Newfoundland Crossing Authority, standing in the name of the hon. member for Humbert-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). These items will, of course, be allowed to remain on the list. I am not making a final ruling on them now, but if hon. members will look closely at the bills I have enumerated they will see that in many instances, if not in all instances, they appear to be money bills or encroach upon the financial initiative of the Crown.

What I propose to do is leave them on the order paper at the present time, and when they are called, starting with the one when we next have private members' public bills, in the name of hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander), I will hear argument as to whether that bill is a money bill, and because of that whether it should be accepted for debate in the House. I am not making a ruling now, but I would be delighted to hear the arguments of hon. members who perhaps might be able to convince the Chair that the original judgment made at this time is not correct. We will now proceed with the first item under private bills.

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, I will not take up too much of your time, Mr. Speaker, but I wish to express my appreciation of your permission to develop argument in respect of the bill which stands in my name. In order to assist you, I wish to advise that I shall be proceeding on the principle that I am not talking on a money bill, but seeking forgiveness from the Crown. I think this should make an interesting argument.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

PENSION BENEFITS STANDARDS ACT

AMENDMENT TO INCREASE INFORMATION ON PENSION FUNDS TO EMPLOYEES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West) moved that Bill C-5 to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act (information to employees) be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.