

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 27, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

• (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AGRICULTURE

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FARM BANKRUPTCIES—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Madam Speaker, four months ago I moved a motion in the House regarding farm bankruptcies and called upon the government to make the necessary amendments to the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act to make it an effective instrument to be used by farmers to prevent bankruptcies. Since then, the government has taken no steps whatsoever in this direction. We now learn that primary industry and farm bankruptcies are up by 134 per cent over 1980, and in the first four months of 1982 over 3,600 businesses declared bankruptcy, including 158 farmers. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper):

That this House call upon the Prime Minister and his cabinet to open their eyes and recognize the harm they are inflicting upon Canada's business and farm communities. We urge the government to adopt policies immediately to allow farmers to keep their land and continue to produce food for Canadians.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF NAVAL SHIPS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Madam Speaker, the sinking of the British warships in the Falkland Islands ought to be a valuable object lesson to our Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne). These modern British warships, with aluminum superstructures and poor missile defences, are woefully inadequate against sophisticated missile attack. The minister has stated our navy's role is one of anti-submarine warfare, but how can Canada's ships carry out their assigned NATO anti-submarine defence if they have been sunk by an Exocet-type missile fired from some 30 to 40 kilometres away?

Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Corbett):

That Canada's naval ships presently under refit to the tune of \$200 million to \$300 million, yet still missile defenceless, be assigned the highest priority to ensure their capability to defend themselves against sophisticated missile attack and to provide the utmost in protection for the lives of our fine Canadian sailors.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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RAILWAYS

INSPECTION OF CARS USED TO TRANSPORT DANGEROUS
GOODS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, it has recently been reported that yet another tank car containing yellow phosphorous, a highly dangerous and explosive material, was found to be leaking in the Hamilton rail yards. This most recent incident, when taken together with the many similar incidents which I reported to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) on February 26 and March 2, 1982, clearly indicates that the procedures used to ensure the safety of residents and workers in areas immediately adjoining rail lines and yards are inadequate. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Beaches (Mr. Young):

That the minister require that each and every railroad car used in the transportation of hazardous or dangerous materials be inspected immediately and that a program of inspection at the point of loading be instituted forthwith in order to avoid what can only be described as a potential catastrophe from becoming a real catastrophe.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE PRIME MINISTER

MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask this House to take special notice of the recent anti-social behaviour of the Prime Minister while in this Chamber. His challenges and