

The Canadian Economy

National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) has been virtually silent on these matters. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan):

That the minister be instructed to make a statement on motions in the House of Commons as to what action he is taking to assure Canadians that their health is being adequately protected.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is put forward under the terms of Standing Order 43 and it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED PAYMENT OF DISCOUNT ON ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 43, I request unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an extremely serious matter which calls for the application of emergency measures.

Considering that the price of milk has just gone up from 48 cents to 51 cents a quart, that the cost of butter may also rise by 12 cents before spring, and that those food products are essential to the diet of Canadians and especially that of children, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette):

That this House study at the earliest the possibility of adopting a consumer price compensated discount applicable to all food products that are considered essential, in order that Canadians can have access to important foods whose prices are now much too high.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Pursuant to Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The question is on the following motion moved by the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard), seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette):

That this House study at the earliest the possibility of adopting a consumer price compensated discount applicable to all food products that are considered essential, in order that Canadians can have access to important foods whose prices are now much too high.

Is the motion carried?

[English]

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I clearly said "no".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: With all due respect to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Drury), when I asked whether there

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

was unanimous consent there was a stony silence on both sides of the House. In any event, if by any chance I made an error in not hearing anyone say "no", it is too late. I listened very carefully, and I was quite certain. It was extremely quiet when I asked.

Mr. MacFarlane: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, some of us sit very far back. I said "no" quite clearly.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Diefenbaker: If the Speaker does not hear any opposition and goes ahead with the motion, it is too late for those who are sound asleep opposite to have a second bite at the apple. The hon. member who tells us he said "no" has that type of voice which as far as we are concerned in western Canada has not been heard since the buffalo ceased to roam. In all seriousness, once Your Honour went ahead with the reading, that was the end of the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Not much can be served by further discussion. I had already asked whether it was the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion, and I believe the hon. member is seeking to explain this motion.

Mr. Drury: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard) quite properly has the floor to speak to a motion put before the House. If there are points of order, I shall be happy to hear them in due course. However, I think we ought to respect the fact that the hon. member for Rimouski has the floor.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first words are to thank the right hon. member for Prince Albert for upholding the views of the House.

It is an extremely important matter, namely the price of butter and milk. Our children need those products. As far as I am concerned, I am just as sure as you are, Mr. Speaker, I heard absolutely nothing. You asked twice whether there was unanimous consent and nobody answered. Then I said: Agreed. And I want the House to abide by your ruling.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Drury: On a point of order, I am not sure I caught the entire content of the motion, but it did appear to me that there is some question about whether it is in order in the sense that it is a private member's motion recommending a variation in ways and means. Such a motion, according to my understanding, is not in order. This is the point I wished to raise earlier.