

Because this radioactive spill contained large amounts of tritium, a substance so toxic that some scientists believe it can cause birth defects, and because it is a substance for which there are no proven safety levels for emissions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton):

That the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources immediately instruct the Atomic Energy Control Board to conduct a complete review of all their general radiation emission standards to protect the health of this and future generations of Canadians.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

THE ECONOMY

REDUCTION IN GOVERNMENT DEFICIT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton-Middlesex): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Figures released yesterday by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) indicate that the government's operating deficit is down nearly \$1 billion. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Kelly):

That this House recognize and applaud the minister for his efforts in putting Canada on a firm economic base.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

EFFECT ON PETROLEUM PRODUCERS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Madam Speaker, today celebrates the anniversary of the ill-conceived National Energy Program. Since the price of gas and fuel oil has risen by 30 per cent in one year on account of federal and provincial sales taxes and increases at the wellhead, the majority of which goes to federal and provincial governments, and as the National Energy Program has forced Canadian petroleum producers physically and financially to leave Canada, resulting in a failure to ensure oil self-sufficiency for Canadians, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) that:

The Minister of Finance provide in his upcoming budget for an energy tax credit and return to the drawing board to rewrite the National Energy Program in order to encourage Canadian petroleum producers to return to Canada.

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

THE CONSTITUTION

SURVEY CONDUCTED BY CANADA WEST FOUNDATION—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Elzinga):

That the Minister of Justice be severely castigated for abusing the truth and thereby misleading Canadians when he stated that a survey taken by Canada West Foundation supported the government position on the Constitution when, in actual fact, 90 per cent of those surveyed were in opposition to having Canada's Constitution amended in the U.K. by the British Parliament.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

VIA RAIL

QUERY RESPECTING LEGALITY OF ORDER IN COUNCIL
CANCELLING PASSENGER SERVICES

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Yesterday the minister undertook to attend immediately to the question of the illegality of the government's order in council which proposes to eliminate one fifth of Canada's rail passenger service. This arose out of an opinion expressed by Mr. J. C. Eglinton, the counsel for the Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments.

The minister also undertook to respond to the suggestion advanced by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition to the effect that he recommended that the implementation date of November 15 be deferred until such time as this matter be referred to the appropriate court for thorough clarification.

• (1415)

Can the minister now advise the House of the results of his action, and can he also advise the House what he proposes to do?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Yes, Madam Speaker. In this instance the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Transport, and the hon. member for