

Supply

say so, to take the initiative, it is therefore urgently necessary for this House to consider the entire question of parliamentary rights in the Senate and the order to be established and maintained by the Chair in the Senate. Furthermore, and I say this without prejudice, I think it is in the interests of Canadians that we should have a debate on this issue here in the House of Commons, in order to launch a wide-ranging discussion and restore the confidence of Canadians in Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier for his comments. As hon. members are no doubt aware, similar points of order were raised last Friday and, as I said, it is probably not appropriate to have an emergency debate. However, I think that this week we would do well to consider with some measure of concern the events that occurred in the other place. Today, however, I regret to say, is not the appropriate time. I thank the hon. member.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 81—EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Etobicoke North) moved:

That this House condemns the government for its failure to provide Canadians with policies designed to assure full employment through international competitiveness and consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. deputy House leader on a point of order.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Pursuant to Standing Order 57, I give notice that at the next sitting of the House, before the Order is called for resuming debate on motion No. 16, in the name of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerning the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and on any amendment thereto, I shall move that the debate shall not be further adjourned.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On debate, the hon. member for Etobicoke North.

Mr. MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, the motion that we have placed before the House today reads:

That this House condemns the government for its failure to provide Canadians with policies designed to assure full employment through international competitiveness and consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

We have presented this motion before the House at a time when Canada has entered a period of recession. Canada has seen six consecutive months of negative growth in our economy, the standard definition of recession. But, to put our current situation in more tangible terms, if one could take a snapshot of the Canadian economy today, what would one see?

One would see first of all high interest rates throughout our economy, throughout our country, decidedly higher than those in our principal trading partner, the United States. We would see an inflated value for the Canadian dollar, an inflated value that drives down Canadian exports, making Canadian products more expensive for other countries to purchase. Not surprisingly, Mr. Speaker, given those two factors, high interest rates and a high Canadian dollar, we would see higher unemployment.

We have in fact seen high unemployment. We have seen it go up again this past month as it did the previous month. The Canadian economy is now characterized by increasing unemployment.

We would see underfunding of government programs to make us more globally effective, more globally competitive. We would see an economy that is unable to generate the necessary support programs necessary to ensure our further global competitiveness.

All that is to say that Canada has entered a recession.

We hear frequently the Minister of Finance speaking about how Canada is on a debt treadmill. He is wont to offer the House and to the Canadian people a whole litany of problems that arise, in his view, from the very large debt that Canada has accumulated and the service charges that Canadians must pay on that accumulated debt. And yet it is this same government, this same Minister of Finance, who has not succeeded in bringing down the debt. He speaks of the need to do so. He tells