

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for debate, pursuant to Standing Order 43, would require unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

LEGISLATION TO PREVENT STRIKE DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to put a motion regarding a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

As a bill was tabled yesterday prohibiting any postal strike during the coming election campaign and as the date for the election has not yet been announced, and that this legislation will hinder the negotiations between the Treasury Board and the postal employees, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That the House direct the government to delay the passage of this bill so that all members of this House as well as all those concerned can discuss the matter in a more relaxed and open climate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the hon. member's motion. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance will know that thanks to his direction of the economy, for the second month in a row there are now more than one million Canadians out of work in Canada. He also knows, because it is the statement of his own officials, that in order to make any significant change in this respect we must have a real growth rate at a minimum of at least 5 per cent. The minister admitted last night that we are not going to reach that level under the budget he is proposing.

Oral Questions

Will the minister tell us whether he intends to introduce any new measures to create jobs in Canada, or is it the plan of the Government of Canada to simply sit back and smile while more than one million Canadians are out of work?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, again the hon. Leader of the Opposition has forgotten to mention that on a year-to-year basis the Canadian economy has created 330,000 new jobs in one year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: You are bankrupt of ideas.

Mr. Chrétien: That is 100,000 more than the average over the last ten years.

An hon. Member: Change the broken record.

Mr. Chrétien: On top of that, the participation rates increased this month and we have now reached the very high level, compared to the previous year, of 62.4—

Mr. Stevens: It is still not as high as the Americans.

Mr. Chrétien: I think the Canadian economy is creating a lot of jobs for Canadians who come into the labour force. Yesterday the budget was aimed at solving part of this problem. I wanted to be responsible, and I am not trying to create false expectations. We have said that the stimulus we provided yesterday in collaboration with the provinces will make the g.n.p. growth in 1978 close to 5 per cent. I maintain that position. If everything works well, we could reach 5 per cent.

● (1417)

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of Finance seems unable to get through his head is that responsibility in government involves helping to create jobs for the more than one million Canadians who are out of work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The budget he introduced last night absolutely ignores and abandons those one million Canadians. One of the measures the government brought in last night on which the minister has pinned his hopes is a reduction in the provincial sales tax, which reduction, at the government's own direction, will endure for about six months: in other words, the program ends when unemployment becomes most acute.

Will the Minister of Finance explain to the House, to the million Canadians who are out of work now, and to the many more who will be out of work when this stimulus ends in October or November, why this six-month limit was imposed on the provinces and on the unemployed of Canada?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the very simple reason is that a stimulus of that nature aimed at a period of time will induce Canadians to go and buy now.

Mr. Hees: What will they do then?