

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 1, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TRANSPORT

DELAY IN LOADING GRAIN SHIPS AT VANCOUVER, B.C.—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I rise on a matter of serious and pressing necessity. In light of the fact that as of May 31, 26 ships are at the port of Vancouver, of which 19 are waiting while only seven are loading because of insufficient supplies of grain due to the shortage of railway hopper and boxcars, and as of April 1 some 23,000 Canadian boxcars are in the United States being utilized for the movement of goods by the United States railways, which represents some 13,000 more boxcars than is the normal and, further, since the railways have reduced their grain-carrying fleet to 13,300 boxcars, with projections to reduce this amount to 6,300 by 1981, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn), that:

This House instruct the Minister of Transport to take immediate action to resolve this very serious economic emergency which has resulted in the loss of our reputation as a reliable grain supplier, plus a further deterioration in our balance of trade position, and also to take immediate steps to alleviate the producer of the mounting demurrage costs due to our inadequate grain handling and transportation system.

Mr. Speaker: The introduction of such a motion for debate at this time would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. It has been announced that Donald S. Macdonald has been elected to the board of directors of McDonnell-Douglas Corporation. Considering that this corporation is one of the front-runners for

the \$2.3 billion fighter aircraft contract with the federal government, and considering that Mr. Macdonald's former position as minister of finance and minister of national defence puts him in a position of special advantage to the company and is contrary to the public interest, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House request the Prime Minister to urge Mr. Macdonald to resign forthwith from his position as a member of the board of directors of the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

SUGGESTED DISCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR CANADIAN-MADE
PRODUCTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion on an urgent and important matter.

Considering that prices go up much faster than salaries and that low income people are therefore affected by a decrease in their purchasing power, and given the obvious dissatisfaction of House of Commons employees following the review of their salary scale which was announced on May 31 last, as a partial solution to their problem I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That the House urge the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) to introduce legislation which would apply a discounting system on retail prices on all Canadian-made products to bring back consumer prices to the level of the current purchasing power of consumers.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Pursuant to 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.