

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 27, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

REVIEW OF INTEREST RATE POLICY BY STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I move a motion under Standing Order 43. The Bank of Canada interest rate has floated at 17 per cent now for nearly two months. Forward positions indicate that interest rates will not significantly decline in the foreseeable future. A year ago, those now on the treasury benches campaigned on the promise that they would reduce interest rates. The rate was then 14 per cent; it is now 17 per cent. They have abandoned their promises. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker):

That this House immediately order its Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs to undertake an immediate review of the high interest rate policy of this government and of the Bank of Canada, and for this purpose the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Minister of Finance appear before it to explain their actions and what they will be doing to solve the problem.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

SUPPORT FOR AWARD OF ORDER OF CANADA TO CANADIANS INVOLVED IN ESCAPE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES FROM IRAN—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I rise on a motion under Standing Order 43, the intent of which I have discussed with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan). One year ago six Americans escaped from Iran with the help of Canadian diplomatic and military personnel. Most of the Canadians involved in the successful return of the American house guests were subsequently awarded their country's highest honour, the Order of Canada. Two persons, however, Mrs. Zena Sheardown and Mrs. Pat Taylor, whose role in sheltering the six Americans

was critical, were not awarded the Order of Canada. To redress this injustice I move, seconded by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp):

That this House go on record as strongly supporting the nomination by the Department of External Affairs that Mrs. Zena Sheardown and Mrs. Pat Taylor receive the Order of Canada for the courageous and indispensable role which they played in the rescue of six Americans from Tehran.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I gather there is unanimous consent for the presentation of this motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

CALL FOR REINSTATEMENT OF HOME REPAIR AGENCY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of great emergency. Recently CMHC officials informed the national anti-poverty organization that their contract as a RRAP home repair agency on the northern peninsula of Newfoundland was cancelled without notice. Since this program has successfully upgraded some 400 homes on the west coast, and over 140 east coast applicants desperately await home repairs and can provide labour while unemployed, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly):

That the minister responsible for CMHC immediately reinstate the NAPO-RRAP for at least six months in order to complete home repairs and solve administrative problems; and further, that CMHC extend RRAP in a more flexible, decentralized way, offering training for local workers in order to assist economic recovery in depressed rural areas and Indian reserves across Canada.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.