

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 17, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT RESPECTING ARGENTIA NAVAL BASE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that after several years of delay the governments of Canada and the United States have finally settled the terms of a written agreement for the turning over by the U.S.A. of the north side of the Argentia leased base to Canada, so that the land and facilities thereon can be made available to Newfoundland for industrial and economic purposes and job creation for the people of the Placentia-Argentia area, and in view of the fact that the only cause of delay now is the failure of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to set a date for the official joint announcement and for the official turning over of the land and facilities on the north side of the base to Canada, I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That the Secretary of State for External Affairs announce today a date this week for the official joint announcement and for the turning over of the north side of the Argentia U.S. naval base to Canada and to Newfoundland so that immediate industrial and economic development of the area can commence and jobs be created in this area of high unemployment, and that there be no further procrastination and delay so damaging to the interest of the people of the Placentia-Argentia area.

Mr. Speaker: Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, the motion requires unanimous consent before it can be put to the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE BUDGET

SALES TAX PROPOSALS—CRITICISM BY LEADER OF QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. On Friday, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) criticized the opposition for supporting the

separatist government in the province of Quebec regarding the federal government's sales tax proposal and, furthermore, criticized the four western premiers for saying that the proposal "contradicted the spirit of federal-provincial co-operation and consultation . . . and could be prejudicial to ongoing discussions on national unity".

I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House, noting the position of the new Quebec Liberal leader, Mr. Claude Ryan, who has also criticized the federal government's sales tax proposal, requests the Prime Minister to make a statement to the House explaining whether or not in his view Mr. Ryan, an avowed federalist, has also joined the nefarious forces of separatism.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

SALES TAX PROPOSALS—REQUEST GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER FORMULA

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, looking at the benches opposite, I am almost tempted to preface this question by saying, "In the absence of the government—"

An hon. Member: Look behind you.

Mr. Clark: In my party I don't have to look behind me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1412)

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and it relates to economic policy. Now that the government has had an opportunity to read the whole of the communiqué of the western premiers and to reconsider, in an atmosphere of greater calm, the concerns expressed by the government of the province of Quebec in relation to the sales tax—which comes under provincial jurisdiction—and the support for the position of that government by all the provincial political parties in Quebec, can the Deputy Prime Minister tell us whether the Government of Canada is now prepared to reconsider either the formula or the content of the arrange-