

Since the collapse of the west coast salmon gillnet fisheries appears evident because of recent federal closures of the Fraser River and Rivers Inlet for chinook fishing, and since British Columbia gillnetters cannot afford the harsh economic realities imposed by prolonged closures for conservation purposes, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller):

That the Government of Canada initiate early discussions with representatives of the fishermen to investigate how gillnetters might be compensated for their income losses and/or to consider some other long-term insurance type solution designed to eliminate or minimize the financial instability in the industry.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

TASK FORCE TO STUDY PAY AND BENEFITS OF ARMED FORCES—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that there are many armed forces personnel and their families in Calgary and other centres who are eligible for welfare supplements, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. Gass):

That this House direct the Minister of National Defence to appoint a task force outside the chain of command to examine military pay and benefits in relation to the cost of living in various communities to which armed forces personnel and their families are posted.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion would require unanimous consent before it could be put to the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1115)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—CONDEMNATION OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES
ABSTAINING FROM VOTE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. On June 7, in Luxembourg, the North Atlantic Assembly voted on a draft resolution "condemning the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and of the right of the Afghan people to self-determination".

The resolution went on to call for a strengthening of the NATO alliance. The NDP member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr.

Oral Questions

Sargeant) and Liberal Senator Royce Frith, members of the Canadian delegation, abstained from this vote. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall):

That this House condemns the NDP member for Selkirk-Interlake and Liberal Senator Royce Frith, and urges that they be removed immediately from the North Atlantic Assembly parliamentarians' group.

Madam Speaker: 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

INDEXING OF PERSONAL INCOME TAX—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the somewhat elusive Minister of Finance. On Tuesday we heard bad news about increasing unemployment figures and today, as the minister knows, we have a cost of living increase announced of 1.2 per cent in May. That is a year over year increase of 9.4 per cent and an annualized rate of 14.4 per cent. But even more alarming is that the underlying rate of inflation, when we remove food and energy costs from the index, was also up 1.2 per cent, which is a year over year rate of 9.1 per cent, the highest since 1976.

Given this burgeoning inflation rate, would the minister now advise the taxpayers of Canada and the House that the government definitely and unequivocally is not going to remove indexing from the personal income tax system, as the Minister of Finance said was a probability several weeks ago and as his assistant said had a 50-50 chance? In view of this burgeoning inflation rate, will the minister now make it clear that the government is not going to attempt to take advantage of inflation to get additional revenues in an unfair manner from the people of Canada, and that this is definitely ruled out?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, while the statistics on inflation are serious and have to be taken into account, I doubt whether the term "burgeoning" is justified. I am sure the hon. gentleman would not have described his forecast of inflation which he made last December for 1980 as burgeoning.

However, that aside, I am delighted the hon. member raised the question of indexation and the possible removal of indexation from the income tax system, particularly his use of the word "probability".

Mr. Crosbie: That was your word.