

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 2, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### SINGAPORE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE—TABLING OF COMMUNIQUÉ AND DECLARATION

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I referred yesterday in my statement on motions both to the final communiqué of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting and to the Commonwealth declaration. Under Standing Order 41(2) I should like now to table each of these documents and, should it meet the pleasure of the House, request that they be printed as an annex to *Hansard* for the convenience of members, as has been done in the past.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above documents, see Appendices A and B.*]

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under Standing Order 43 having to do with the projected takeover of a Canadian oil company by a United States firm. Since 83 per cent of oil and gas production and 99 per cent of petroleum refining in Canada are now under foreign control, it seems imperative that the government should take action, as it did in the case of Denison Mines, to preserve a degree of Canadian ownership. I therefore wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the following motion:

In view of the announcement that negotiations are in progress for the purchase of Home Oil Company Limited of Calgary, Alberta, by Ashland Oil Incorporated, of Ashland, Kentucky, this House urges the government to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent the takeover of the largest remaining Canadian-owned oil producer.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. Under Standing Order 43, is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity and the hon. member's motion cannot be put.

● (2:10 p.m.)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I am happy to see him looking so well on his return from Halifax. Has the minister had conversations with the executive of the Home Oil Company and the alleged prospective purchaser of control of that company? If so, can he indicate very briefly the nature of the conversations?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his kind words. I want to assure him that while in Halifax I paid his respects to the people of Nova Scotia. With regard to the question, Mr. Speaker, I have had conversations over a period of some weeks both with the potential buyers, the Ashland Company, and with the president of the Home Oil Company with regard to the purported sale. I have urged upon them the desirability of maintaining a majority Canadian ownership and Canadian control in this company. To date the president of the Home Oil Company has clearly displayed his very keen interest as a Canadian citizen in maintaining a majority interest in Canadian ownership. Under the laws that exist, I will, to the best of my ability, continue to maintain the position that this major Canadian oil company should be retained as a Canadian company.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I am sure that Mr. Brown is anxious to maintain control of this company in Canada, but is the government making any proposals to assist in the retention of the control of this important independent oil company in Canada?

**Mr. Greene:** We can only operate under the law as it exists, Mr. Speaker, and within the law as it exists we will do everything possible to assure the maintenance of this company as a Canadian company. I am assured that