

That the House urge the right hon. Prime Minister to "resurrect" the proposed federal referendum legislation in order to protect all Canadians.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the terms of the motion put by the hon. member. Under 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.

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[English]

### HUMAN RIGHTS

REQUEST GOVERNMENT TAKE STEPS TO SECURE RELEASE OF BULGARIAN, DIMITER KOLEV—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale-High Park):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to move a motion of the utmost urgency.

Given the plight of 69-year old Dimiter Kolev, who is imprisoned and in failing health in a Bulgarian concentration camp for the offence of campaigning on behalf of an opposition political party, and given the refusal of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Miss MacDonald) to meet with Mr. Kolev's son, Stefan, who is in Ottawa at this time, on the grounds that she lacks a basis under international law to intervene on his behalf, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan):

That this House urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to meet with Stefan Kolev forthwith as a first step in a campaign by the Government of Canada to secure the release of Dimiter Kolev from detention, consistent with the gospel of human rights espoused by the Secretary of State before the United Nations last September.

**Mr. Speaker:** Presentation of such a motion for debate at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, can be done only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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### HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SPEAKER OF SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Mr. Speaker:** Before beginning the question period, may I ask hon. members to join with me in signalling the presence in our gallery of a distinguished visitor and my distinguished counterpart from the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker J. E. Brockelbank.

● (1415)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASE IN INTEREST RATE—HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. How could the minister have agreed to the advice of the governor of the Bank of Canada to raise interest rates yesterday to 14 per cent, when the governor today told the finance committee he was unable to give to him or the committee his forecast of the effect of this interest rate increase on such matters as jobs, economic growth, mortgage rates, housing starts and small business?

**An hon. Member:** Resign.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me the opportunity to say that I support absolutely the statement that Governor Bouey made to the committee this morning.

While I have not got the transcript of the committee proceedings here yet, I certainly can tell him this, that the move that the governor recommended—and which I accepted and which I accept responsibility for—is one taken after very serious consideration. Because I believe, and the governor believes, that it is in the long-term interest of this country and the Canadian economy, the Canadian people and the small business community whom we represent on this side of the House and whom we are concerned about, that this policy be adopted and that the battle against inflation and the battle to retrieve our economy from where the hon. gentleman's party left it, this is the only way we can proceed today.

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Finance. I want to start by saying that the Prime Minister, speaking as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party to the Canadian Construction Association last March 2, said:

Record high interest rates work against confidence because they work against growth—

He went on to say:

Interest rates must come down if we are to get the Canadian economy growing at its full potential. It would be the policy of the Progressive Conservative government to gradually bring these interest rates down.

In light of these commitments I would ask the minister how he and the Conservative government can do just the opposite and agree to these record high interest rates.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is right on: that is our policy and that is what we are going to do. We are going to bring these interest rates down when we have got inflation in Canada under control and when the other western industrialized countries have it under control. We are going to bring the interest rates down when the huge trade deficit of over \$7 billion left by the hon. gentleman's government is