

Oral Questions

Mr. Mackasey: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not know who shouted no. I know how I felt about the proposed motion under Standing Order 43. I supported the very logical proposal of the hon. member for Central Nova and I am showing my anger in the only way I can, as a member, by asking a question of the minister directly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond rose on a point of order and the hon. member for Verdun has spoken to the point of order. The minister is prepared to reply, and I will certainly recognize the hon. member for Central Nova on a supplementary.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): On a further point of order, I apologize to the hon. member for Verdun since he stood behind the motion under Standing Order 43. But the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that you yourself put the motion a second time and the supporters of the Secretary of State on two occasions showed their discrimination.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, maybe I could clarify the situation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Muir: No way!

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): A double whamee!

Mr. Faulkner: Hon. members do not seem to be treating this matter very seriously.

An hon. Member: We do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Central Nova now rises on a question of privilege. I am not sure whether all this is very helpful, but I will recognize the hon. member.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is simply this. Unfortunately the minister was not in the House when the motion under Standing Order 43 was presented, and I do not think it is proper for him to suggest that we on this side do not take this matter seriously. We do. I put it to Your Honour that this is an improper allegation for the minister to make.

An hon. Member: Silly!

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, the incident was brought to my attention this morning. I have dispatched one of my officials to look into the matter. I would point out to hon. members opposite, before they begin to make blanket accusations about the Young Voyageurs Program, that although it is financed federally it is administered provincially. I can assure the hon. member for Verdun and others who have raised this matter that as a matter of principle this government will not tolerate any form of discrimination under any of its programs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond).]

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity to thank those hon. members on the other side who supported the motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 and ask the minister—I concede that this is a provincially administered program—to look into this matter diligently and consider, insofar as possible, implementing guidelines or conditions to govern funds contributed to programs such as this so as to prohibit strictly any such discrimination, as is done already in many other areas of government legislation.

Mr. Faulkner: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if it is necessary. But I would point out that the program has been operating for ten years and this is the first incident of this kind which has occurred. But if it should prove to be necessary to provide protection against this sort of thing, I would certainly be willing to look at the hon. member's suggestion about guidelines.

REQUEST THAT PROVISION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BE INCLUDED IN ALL GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAMS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the seriousness of this matter I wonder whether the Prime Minister, in keeping with what I know his attitude to be, will cause an investigation of all government funded programs to be made to see to it that a clause prohibiting discrimination is included in each of them, thus indicating that this House and the government take a dim view of discrimination whether on the basis of race, creed, colour, sex or national origin? Would he assure the House that this will be done? I am very serious about the matter.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As to the substance of the question I agree, of course, with the hon. member—and he was good enough to recognize this in his question. As to the way in which we might proceed, I do not think the solution is as easy as he suggests. This government has been concerned for some time now that federally-funded programs which are administered by the provinces do not always respond to the particular criteria or even to the intentions of the federal government. I am talking now about such programs in general. There is a constant effort—and there is one currently going on—to make sure that when the funds are derived from the federal taxpayers the federal government should get its share not only of the responsibility but also of the credit for programs which have worked well—for ten years, in this case—and for which the provinces very often get more credit than the federal government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR TWO-PRICE SYSTEM FOR RESOURCES AFFECTED BY HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRICES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of