

Consumer Affairs

Mr. Speaker: There appears to be unanimous agreement. May I ask if there is unanimous agreement for an order that at eight o'clock this evening the House will proceed to the business proposed by the President of the Privy Council in the terms he just now put forward?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

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ENERGY

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—SUGGESTED DELAY IN ENTERING FORMAL AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In light of statements made in this House yesterday by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) to the effect that no formal agreement had yet been signed between the federal government and the principals of Syncrude, and in light of the fact that the tar sands are a vital resource for the economic future of all Canadians, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez):

That this House instruct the federal government not to conclude any formal agreements with the principals of Syncrude that would involve financial commitments until the Prime Minister has met with the premiers of every province and discussed with them the possibility of a joint federal-provincial consortium to develop the tar sands that would result in total public ownership of this valuable resource.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Its having been proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43, it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF RETAIL DISCOUNT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 43, I request unanimous consent of the House to discuss a matter of urgency which requires our immediate attention.

In view of the fact that the Canadian economy has now slowed down considerably, because consumers do not have the purchasing power needed to buy available products, that quite a number of economists recognize the need to stimulate consumption through an increase in the purchasing power as related to the increase in prices, and that

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Dr. Vincent Bladen, an economist, has suggested a negative sales tax to boost consumer purchasing power, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That this House study the possibility and urgency of setting up a system of retail compensated discount to lower consumer prices immediately to the level of present consumer purchasing power.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the terms of Standing Order 43, the motion requires unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: As there is not unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

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[English]

HERITAGE DAY

REQUEST FOR DECLARATION OF STATUTORY HOLIDAY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 43, to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. The urgency arises from the fact that the third Monday in February is fast approaching. Your Honour will recall that in December, 1973, the justice committee presented a report recommending the adoption of a new legal holiday to be known as Heritage Day. There is presently on the order paper Bill C-208, which seeks to implement this recommendation. What gives this matter more urgency is the fact that the holiday has been recognized in the railway arbitration award of Mr. Justice Emmett Hall given in June, 1974. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McRae):

That Bill C-208 be brought forward to the first place under private members' public bills.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In agreeing to this motion, perhaps I might be permitted to point out that I had informed the government before we met at two o'clock today that I would be moving, under Standing Order 43—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is well aware that, regrettably, there is no provision whereby I am able to permit this discussion to continue. The House may be able to guess the intent of this commentary. I must say that the hon. member was good enough to give the Chair notice of his intention to move a similar motion on this subject. For that reason I was looking in his direction a moment ago. Perhaps because of the discussion in which he was engaged, he could not rise at that time. At the moment there is a motion before the House which I must put at this time.