

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 28, 1975

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

WELCOME TO MEMBER FOR PRINCE ALBERT ON RETURN TO
HOUSE FOLLOWING ILLNESS

Mr. Speaker: I know that despite our haste to demonstrate our willingness to see the new procedures remain effective, hon. members would not begrudge one moment out of the time set aside for motions pursuant to Standing Order 43 to make note of the return to active service amongst us this afternoon of the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Despite the reforms and the efficiency, with which we now conduct our question period, there has been something missing of late which, I am sure, we will see promptly return to the question period.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO FAILURE OF EMBASSY
TO EVACUATE VIETNAMESE MEMBERS OF STAFF—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity concerning the deplorable stance assumed by the Canadian government in its refusal to expedite the evacuation of the Vietnamese employed by its embassy in Saigon on the premise that exit visas were unobtainable. In light of the successful efforts on the parts of both Pan-American airways and the British embassy in Saigon to evacuate Vietnamese members of their staffs, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander):

That the government order an immediate parliamentary inquiry into the failure of the Canadian Embassy to evacuate its Vietnamese staff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

HOUSING

SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE TO
STIMULATE CONSTRUCTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the recent increase in mortgage interest rates, an increase which can only have the effect of further depressing housing starts as we enter the peak of the building season, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent):

That the House instruct the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and the Minister of Finance to immediately reduce mortgage interest rates to increase funding for the Assisted Home Ownership Program, non-profit and public housing programs of CMHC and having a target of 400,000 starts in housing for 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO BANKING PROCEDURES OF CIDA—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. I am prompted to do so by Neil Overend's statement in Committee on April 24 that some \$2.7 million of CIDA's money has been sitting in a non-interest account in a Kenyan bank for over five months, which is either an under-handed way of granting Kenya hard foreign currency or a matter of gross incompetence. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie):

That the government order an immediate inquiry into the banking procedures of CIDA and other government agencies to see what other sums of Canadian taxpayers' money have not been earning interest over long stretches of time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.