

Inflation

recommendation of the Crown, it cannot be put to the House at this time.

I refer the hon. member to Citation 249(1) of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition. The principle explained there is further confirmed by Citation 250 as follows:

"If any motion, or bill, or proceeding is offered to be moved, whether in the House or in a committee, which requires, but fails to receive, the recommendation of the Crown, it is the duty of the Chair to announce that no question can be proposed upon the motion, or to direct the withdrawal of the bill."

Judging from the comments made yesterday by the hon. member for Scarborough East, including his reference to discussions which he has had with the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I take it he is in agreement that the bill should be removed from the order paper.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING AND INTEREST RATES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave under Standing Order 26 to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing the uncontrolled inflationary pressures exemplified by the cost of living figures released by Statistics Canada this morning, combined with the increase in interest rates announced yesterday. I make this motion as the most appropriate way in which to get these emergencies before the House.

• (1430)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition has given the Chair the notice required under Standing Order 26. I have also received a notice from the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), which reads as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore, to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the record level of Canadian interest rates, particularly in mortgages, which will be seriously aggravated by the announcement that, effective today, the Bank of Canada's prime rate will be increased by a further one half of one per cent, and the urgent need for the government to take corrective action.

Obviously there cannot be two motions before the House at the same time. Since the motion sponsored by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is proposed in broader terms and includes specifically the matter suggested for discussion by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, and taking into account also the special position in the House of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would propose that if one of these two motions is to be put and debated preference should go to the motion proposed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Of course, at this point I am only referring to the priority of the motions if one were accepted.

The conditions and circumstances which have to be taken into account by the Chair are set out in section 16 of Standing Order 26. It has often been said that the matter proposed for debate under Standing Order 26 must be in the nature of a genuine emergency or a sudden emergency. This is why, on a number of occasions, the Chair has hesitated to put a motion founded primarily on the regular monthly reports of Statistics Canada. I am sure hon. members are in agreement with this general interpretation of the Standing Order. At the same time, I recognize that there are in this instance special circumstances to justify an emergency debate which would take into account the statistical report on which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has based his motion.

I am therefore disposed to put the motion which stands in the name of the hon. Leader of the Opposition on the understanding that the scope of the debate will encompass the subject matter proposed by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby who would in this way have a special position in the debate. If the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby sees no procedural objection to this—I would assume there is not very much he can do about the situation—with leave of the House I would suggest that the motion be set down for consideration at eight o'clock this evening, pursuant to section 9 of Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

COST OF LIVING AND INTEREST RATE INCREASES—NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL—POSSIBILITY OF NEW BUDGET

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Hon. members opposite can make a racket in the House, Mr. Speaker, but it is too bad they cannot do something about inflation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether, in view of the increase in the monthly cost of living index at the rate of about 15 per cent on an annual basis and ranging right across the spectrum, including the rise in interest rates, he proposes to put any new measures before the House today to bring this situation under some control?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the figures that were published today reflect the situation in the reference week, the first week in August, a situation that became very apparent to the public, to parliament and to the government. As a result of the rise in the cost of living, particularly the rise in food prices,