

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 34, in the name of the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). Shall the item stand?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 37, in the name of the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski). Shall the item stand?

Some hon. Members Stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 39, in the name of the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall). Shall the item stand?

Some hon. Members: Stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Item 35, in the name of the hon. member for Vegreville?

Mr. Peters: To aid you, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that all the motions stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that all these motions stand?

● (1720)

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Speaking on behalf of members on this side of the House, may I say we are completely in agreement. We think it is very important that we continue to discuss Bill C-69, provided there is unanimous support. I agree with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker).

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I thank the government whip. I believe it is an important piece of public business. From time to time private members' hour is sacrificed in appropriate circumstances in favour of public business. In this case there is no sacrifice involved because private members' business has been dealt with. It would not be unreasonable for us to agree, on this occasion at least, that the discussion of public business ought to proceed. I hope the NDP House leader will agree.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We also thought that Bill C-208 was an important measure. It was dealt with by a committee of the House and reported back, and if the House is not prepared to deal with that business I suggest we should call it six o'clock.

Mr. Breau: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is fair to those members who were here before five o'clock and who might be interested in the debate on Bill C-69, and did not know it was to be resumed, if we were to follow the course which has been suggested and continue the debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Six o'clock.

Anti-Inflation Program

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, the hour appointed for consideration of private members' business has expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At 5.24 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to order made earlier this day the House will now revert to routine proceedings for the tabling of documents and statements by ministers.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF MOTION CONCERNING ANTI-INFLATION LEVY, AND OF REGULATIONS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to lay on the Table of the House a notice of ways and means motion to provide for an anti-inflation levy, and also the regulations made under the Anti-Inflation Act.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—STATEMENT ON CUTS IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, tonight, I wish to make a statement on the steps the government is taking to limit its expenditures during the 1976-77 fiscal year.

The reductions I shall announce can be considered part of our anti-inflation program. We asked all sectors of society to show restraint; the government recognizes that it also must show moderation in its expenditures. There is real public concern about government expenditures at all levels. Canadians are asking us to slow down and pave the way for continued social progress without trying to do everything at the same time.

We have therefore carefully examined all our projected expenditures for next year and reduced them by more than \$1.5 billion. We must recognize however that slowing the growth rate of government programs involves painful decisions.

There is very little, almost nothing, that can be cut without hurting someone or without restricting some worthwhile endeavour. I can be stronger than that. With inflation eating up anything there might be in the way of surplus funds in departmental programs, and with the