

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand today.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notice of motion for the production of papers No. P-15 in the name of the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway?

Motion No. P-15

That an Humble Address be presented to Her Excellency praying that she will cause to be laid before this House copies of all documents and proposals considered and accepted at the Paris Meeting on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, from May to June 23, 1989.

Mr. Cooper: The motion proposed by the hon. member is unacceptable for the following reasons: No. 1, the CSCE is an intergovernmental process which always operates under the procedural rules of consensus; No. 2, lacking a formal consensus on the part of all 35 CSCE countries to do so, the Canadian government is not in a position to release the formal proposal submitted at meetings such as the Paris meeting on the human dimension.

I would therefore ask the member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Robinson: Transfer for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

GOVERNMENT ACTION RESPECTING VIA RAIL

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 52, I ask leave, through you, to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration; namely the drastic cuts of passenger rail services by VIA Rail announced today by the Minister of Transport which will impose severe hardships on Canadians, especially those who are least able to find affordable alternatives.

Government Orders

Mr. Speaker: First of all, so that it is clearly understood what we are doing here, under the orders which govern us, it is the right of members to rise and to ask for an emergency debate. The rules governing whether that should be accepted are well known to hon. members.

The matter that has been raised by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is a very serious matter and has engaged this House for a number of days and again today. It may well engage the time of the House in the future.

I have given very careful consideration to the application which I received earlier this morning. I repeat, the matter is of great importance. It is very much the subject of discussion in the country and debate in the House. I find that at least for now it does not meet the criteria of the order. However, I reiterate it is a matter of national importance.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROPS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Tuesday, October 3, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-36, an act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Foster:

That Bill C-36, an Act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day six months hence.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, these are tough times down on the farm and tough times in rural Canada.

The entire Question Period this afternoon was devoted to VIA Rail cuts, which will be another severe blow to rural Canada. It seems that this government wants to shut down rural Canada. Of course, the matter at hand, this bill that we are considering, is another blow, particularly to farmers in the country. They have used the cash advance system for more than 30 years. They have found it to be of good use, particularly when they could use cash advances on an interest free basis. If this bill goes through, they will lose the ability to use cash advances on an interest free basis. They will have to pay interest.