S.O. 43

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

PENSIONS

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I rise on a matter the urgency of which will continue until this House does something about it. Therefore, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), I move:

That this House calls on the government to recognize the contribution that women in their homes make to our economy, and as a minimum to recognize this contribution by establishing pension equality, including the equivalent of the Canada Pension Plan, for women whose work is in their homes, equal pension rights for all women between the ages of 60 and 65 regardless of marital status, increasing the pensions paid to widows under various government plans to at least 75 per cent, and the continuing payment of pensions granted to widows regardless of any subsequent change in marital status.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for discussion at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

FINANCE

CALL FOR EARLY BUDGET WITH MEASURES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the report of the U.S. labour department, just released, showing Canada leading all other western industrialized nations in terms of the unemployment rate, and having regard to the fact that the order paper is devoid of any significant or effective economic legislation, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn):

That this House direct the Minister of Finance to bring forward his budget at the earliest possible date in order that any measures proposed to combat unemployment may be effected in time to meet an anticipated record level of unemployment this winter.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the presentation of such a motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

TIMING OF INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENT OF REVISED CONSTITUTION

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The throne speech indicated that the government had the intention of introducing in this session of parliament a revised constitutional bill. I wonder if the Prime Minister can tell us when it is the intention of the government to introduce a new constitutional proposal to parliament, and whether it is the government's intention to introduce that before, or after, the next conference relating to the constitution in early February.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): After the next conference, Mr. Speaker.

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Mr. Clark: Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he and his government have dropped the July 1, 1979, deadline for all or any aspects of what the former Bill C-60 referred to as phase one?

Mr. Trudeau: That was not asked of me by any of the premiers either publicly or privately. I myself announced that we would not want to proceed with the provisions of Bill C-60 which cover the Senate unless we had the unanimous consent of the provinces.

Mr. Clark: My question was a little more explicit than that. It was whether the July 1 deadline applies to any aspects at all of what was called phase one in the former Bill C-60. To which aspects of that bill does the deadline apply, if any?

Mr. Trudeau: No premier asked me to change that deadline and therefore there is no reason why I should change it.

Mr. Clark: I take it, then, that the Prime Minister is sticking to that deadline with respect to every matter except the Senate.

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition is quite incorrect.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to lose the opportunity to ask my final supplementary. It has to do with a document introduced by the Prime Minister on Tuesday, entitled "Agenda for Change", which I must say has a very familiar ring to it. I raise this point because there is some question about preconditions the government is attaching—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Clark: I am surprised at the nervousness members opposite are showing. If supporters of the government party will try to be quiet for a moment, I will put my question.