

THE BUDGET

TRANSFER OF FEDERAL SALES TAX TO WHOLESALE LEVEL— MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Madam Speaker, the budget proposes to move federal sales tax from the manufacturing to the wholesale level. In addition to generating huge amounts of additional revenue for the government and causing retail prices to increase, this is an example of several measures in the budget that are bringing about major tax reforms without prior warning. Therefore I move, under the provisions of Standing Order 43 and seconded by the hon. member for Prince George-Bulkley Valley (Mr. McCuish):

That the government refer this topic to committee for proper consideration by everybody involved so that the full impact of this tax change can be fully discussed before the measure is finally implemented.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLAND—VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Because it is inconsistent for the Government of Canada to enshrine cherished human and political rights in our new Constitution and to be indifferent to violations of human and national rights of the people in Poland and generally in eastern Europe, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski):

That the Prime Minister condemn the military junta in Poland for violating human rights in complete disregard of the provisions of the Helsinki agreement and for the suppression of the Solidarity trade union.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity for small businesses in Canada. Small businesses are experiencing a growing problem of collecting accounts receivable, and one of the worst offenders

Oral Questions

when it comes to slow payment is the federal government. Payment for goods and services sold to the federal government is often not received for three, four or more months and, to add insult to injury, no interest is paid on accounts outstanding more than 30 days. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson):

That this House direct the Minister of Supply and Services to remedy this burden the federal government is placing on Canada's small businesses.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

PROVISIONS AFFECTING PENSIONERS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance concerning the tax measures which will affect senior Canadians who are receiving retirement income. The minister will remove the \$1,000 exemption for those pensioners who receive other income and contribute to registered retirement savings plans. Many of these pensioners have retired from the armed forces, the police, and the public service, with very modest pensions.

Where is the justice in taxing senior citizens who are trying to provide for their old age? Will he explain how taxing a Canadian who must supplement his or her pension income and postpone real retirement can result in more equity in the tax system? Why should Parliament punish senior Canadians who want to maintain their independence? Do we really need that kind of revenue?

● (1415)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member has made a very stirring appeal to consider that particular case of the deduction that is available for retired persons. The main objective of that change in the budget proposal was to eliminate that deduction for persons who are not retired. I will certainly listen to the hon. member's representations very carefully when we have those matters in the committee of the Whole.

TAXPAYER STATISTICS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, we are pleased with the conciliatory tone of the Minister of Finance, but I wish he would promise here and now to make a