

brook-McGregor overpass, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Whiteway):

That the Prime Minister forthwith clarify his position with reference to rail line relocation and that he make a statement on motions as to the amount of money he will make available for CPR rail line relocation in Winnipeg, rather than provide funds to build the Sherbrook-McGregor overpass.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for debate only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON MORTGAGE AND PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTIBILITY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In true spy fiction fashion, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs is coming in from the cold by presenting Canadians with a watered-down version of our party's policy of mortgage and property tax deductibility. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott):

● (1415)

That the minister take the first opportunity to make a statement on motions to explain how his government's policies for a shelter allowance will achieve the same measure of economic benefit for this country that a proposal for mortgage and property tax deductibility would achieve.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Parker).

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MULTICULTURALISM

PARTICIPATION OF B'NAI BRITH IN FESTIVAL AT TORONTO—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Rob Parker (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that Caravan, the Toronto multicultural festival, has denied permission to participate to B'Nai Brith as operators of a Jerusalem pavilion as a result of heavy Arab and Palistinian pressure, and that compliance with such pressure is opposed by the House, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay):

That this House request that Caravan reverse its well-intentioned but racist decision to prohibit B'Nai Brith participation as sponsors of a Jerusalem pavilion.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for debate only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

80047-70

Oral Questions

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF ECONOMICS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Mr. Speaker: Before beginning oral question period, I ask hon. members to join with me in recognizing the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished visitor in the person of Dr. Otto Count Lambsdorff, Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT FORECASTS OF RATE OF INFLATION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my initial question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister, who undoubtedly has noted the 8.9 per cent inflation level revealed today in Statistics Canada figures.

When the Prime Minister announced his control program and anti-inflation program in October, 1975, he indicated that the inflation level would be 4 per cent by October last year. Would the Prime Minister now tell the House what, in effect, went wrong, bearing in mind that in each of the years 1976, 1977 and 1978 the Americans had consistently lower inflation than we in this country and each of the other main OECD countries, such as Great Britain, Italy and France, had consistently declining inflation levels while our inflation rate consistently went up? What went wrong?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am genuinely surprised that the hon. member should ask that question. He spent the major part of last week telling the government and the people that when the Canadian dollar fell, it had a very drastic effect upon the rate of inflation in Canada. He has given the answer to his own question. I think the hon. member should read over the questions which he posed last week and he will see. He indicated the degree to which inflation had gone up because of the lower dollar level, and that is true.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, again my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister who last Thursday and once again today conceded, in reply to my question, the impact of the falling dollar on inflation: he indicated that one of the effects of the falling dollar is an increase in the cost of living in Canada.

Is the government now going to correct its faulty fiscal stance which is causing the fall of the dollar and the consumer consequences we are now seeing because of rising inflation? In short, it is not enough to stand in the House and say, "Don't