

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: At the request of the government.

I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move this motion.

NATIONAL PARKS**RENTAL INCREASES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent of the House to move a motion which I will present in a few moments. Recently there have appeared in the press and in correspondence expressions of grave agitation and concern by both commercial and residential leaseholders in the national parks of Canada as a result of demands being made on behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for rent increases under long existing leases of up to over 4000 per cent. This has created a great deal of controversy and unrest. As a matter of fact, it goes to the root of the long-festering struggle between the residents of Jasper, Banff and Waterton National Parks in the province of Alberta and the officials of the parks branch. In addition, Mr. Speaker, yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Edmonton West. Under the terms of Standing Order 43 the question cannot be put unless there is unanimous consent. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimity.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****INFLATION—SUBMISSION OF CRITERIA TO CONFERENCE ON PRICE STABILITY**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Finance arising from the press release of the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission on the matter of the proposed conference on price stability. Does the government intend itself, or through the Prices and Incomes Commission, to submit specific pricing criteria, to use words used by the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission as another way of referring to guidelines or specific restraints?

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): I am allowed to explain the purpose of my motion.

An hon. Member: Briefly.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member says he is allowed to explain the purpose of the motion. I understand the Standing Order allows him to explain the urgency of the motion.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is a great relief to know that my hon. friend, who indicated earlier in the session that he was against the Prices and Incomes Commission, now thinks it may be making progress. Although the Prices and Incomes Commission has indeed secured a great deal of co-operation from business, industry and the professions and has been supported by the government, I believe it will be the objective of this meeting to work out criteria and it will not be for the government to impose criteria upon industry and business in this country.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Banff townsite a plebiscite was held by the residents and on Saturday I am told a similar event took place in Jasper townsite. The question was whether the people wished to remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Because of the urgency of the matter I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Gundlock):

That the whole question of recent rental increases demanded of commercial and residential leaseholders in the national parks of Canada by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the circumstances leading to the holding of a plebiscite by the residents of Banff National Park on January 19, 1970 be referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs for investigation and report to this House.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his lecture and for the small bit of information contained at the end of his remarks. May I ask a supplementary question. Will the government feel committed to arrange the work before the Prices and Incomes Commission or will the government reserve, until after the conference has taken place, its decision on whether any restraints actually approved of will be supported by the government?