

Oral Questions

That when the Member for Burnaby returns from his wanderings in Washington, D.C., this House call upon him to explain whether his Party also favours government grants and loans to assist those wishing to open businesses in human flesh; whether subsidies will be made available to those of less fortunate means who would like to but cannot afford to ensure the viability of the businesses, and whether his Party proposes to amend the Income Tax Act to make such business transactions tax-deductible expenses.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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STATUS OF WOMEN

SUPREME COURT DECISION IN LEATHERDALE CASE

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Whereas the highest court in the land yesterday announced its decision in the Leatherdale case, to the effect that the only value a woman brings to her marriage is the monetary value of her wages or salary earned, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young):

That this House express its profound regret for this decision, especially for its failure to recognize the contribution of Canadian women to the family in raising children.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS ACT

POSITION OF CERTAIN LIBERAL PARTY BACKBENCHERS

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that several backbench Liberals recently said they would vote against Bill C-133 because it would cut the pensions of retired Public Servants, and in view of the fact that several of those Members changed their minds when the Government offered to reduce that pension cut by a chintzy one-half of 1 per cent, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo):

That this House express its disappointment that these backbench Liberals, in changing their minds and accepting the half a per cent solution, have betrayed thousands of retired Public Servants and condemned many of them to lives below the poverty line.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

● (1415)

THE ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, the Government's six and five program creates a law for the rich and a law for the poor in that public servants and pensioners, children and senior citizens, are deprived of statutory benefits granted by Parliament, while an executive like Michael Pitfield is given a substantial retroactive pay increase and unearned pension benefits which could cost over \$1 million. Other Government executives are given similar benefits. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall):

That this House condemn the Prime Minister of Canada and his Government for robbing poor Canadians to reward rich friends like Michael Pitfield, Joel Bell, Pierre Juneau, Maurice Strong, Jack Horner, Donald Macdonald, and on, and on and on.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT FORUM REPORT

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance, who must have noticed the report coming from the European Management Forum which reviewed the records of 22 countries and found that Canada, in terms of business confidence within Canada, ranked 12 out of 22, compared to other nations. In terms of innovative forward orientation, Canada ranked 16. In terms of outward orientation with the rest of the world, Canada ranked 17. Would the Minister of Finance indicate, bearing in mind that his Party has been in power in Canada for 19 of the past 20 years, what has gone wrong in this country?

[*And the Hon. Member for Nunatsiq having taken his seat:*]

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I apologize for the interruption in the answer to the Hon. Member, but it was a worth-while interruption since we are welcoming, on the Government side, the presence of the Hon. Member for Nunatsiq (Mr. Ittinuar). I would say that if there are Members as good on the Opposition side, we would