

LIP Projects

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED EXAMINATION BY AUDITOR GENERAL OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO LOAN TO CUBA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the apparent discrepancy between the recollections of the President of CIDA and the draft of the minutes of the President's Committee meeting of December 2 to 5, 1974, in respect of the total package of CIDA loans and grants to Cuba, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ritchie):

That the Auditor General be instructed to examine the pertinent witnesses and documents and report the facts as determined by him to the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The motion proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 cannot be presented without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUNDS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on an important and urgent matter.

In view of the fact that although spring is here, unemployment is still rising and that the Canadian Parliament has the duty to foster the implementation of employment generating programs, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin):

That the House asks the Treasury Board to make additional funds of several million dollars available to the Department of Manpower and Immigration, so that the minister be allowed to authorize the extension of LIP projects and also finance others that are submitted.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, it requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity; the motion cannot be put.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

HEALTH

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSURE MEAT SOLD IN QUEBEC IS FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the Food and Drugs Act makes it unlawful for any person to sell an article of food that is unfit for human consumption, I should like to ask the minister whether he has satisfied himself that the meat which has been sold in the province of Quebec has been subjected to adequate inspection by some authority either provincial or federal to ensure that it has been fit for human consumption.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like, first of all, to note that, to our knowledge at the present time, there has been no case in which meat from federally inspected plants has been found unfit for human consumption. All the cases up to this time that have been found have been related to plants inspected under provincial authority.

So far as the application of the Food and Drugs Act is concerned, our intention is to let the present inquiry proceed before the commission on organized crime in Quebec so that we may have advice concerning the necessary steps to be taken with regard to prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act. I should like to assure the House and the Leader of the Opposition that all the necessary prosecutions will be instituted as soon as the evidence has become available. To institute proceedings at this particular time might impair the inquiry that is proceeding at the present time.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am not asking the minister about the institution of proceedings. I am asking him whether he has done anything to discharge his responsibility to see that meat being sold in the province of Quebec, whether provincially or federally, is fit for human consumption. I am sure the minister will agree with me that he does not answer that question when he says that all federally inspected meat so far has been found to be fit for human consumption. What has he done to discharge his responsibility under that section of the Food and Drugs Act?

Mr. Lalonde: The Leader of the Opposition will be happy to note that the present inquiry has been initiated following the investigations made by inspectors from my department.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of National Health and Welfare would like to know I would be very much happier if he could tell me what, if anything, he has done to ensure that meat has been inspected and, perhaps more specifically, whether he has any brief comment to make on the fact that it is alleged that some 380 packing or slaughterhouses in the province of Quebec have not been subjected to any inspection at all. What has he to say about that?