

The Territories

There is the question of land claims which must be faced. There is the whole question of the way of life of people living in the north. These are the people who are affected by decisions made here in Ottawa. These are the people who have a right, if we call this a democratic country, to have an effective voice in the government which determines how their daily lives will be spent.

Until there is responsible government in the two territories, crucial decisions affecting the daily lives of people living in the north will not be made by northerners. The time is long overdue for people in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to have the same rights and responsible government which all other Canadians enjoy.

Because this is such an important matter and one about which we can procrastinate no longer, I would move, seconded—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. I regret interrupting the hon. member, but I anticipate that he is about to make a motion, and the hon. member knows that there is now a motion before the House. There can be only one motion before the House at any given time. The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) did indicate in his speech that he would ask leave of the House to withdraw his motion, and he must have unanimous consent to do so according to Standing Order 50.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, anticipating the motion that is to be made by my colleague from Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes), I seek unanimous consent to withdraw my motion in order that he may make his.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The House has heard the request of the hon. member for Yukon. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): There is not unanimous consent; therefore the Chair cannot permit the motion to be withdrawn.

Mr. Nielsen: Is the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Watson) saying no and refusing his consent to the House?

Mr. Watson: Yes, I am refusing consent.

Mr. Nielsen: Shame.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I was about to move an amendment which would recommend that the motion be withdrawn and that the standing committee be empowered to examine the subject matter of motion No. 13, and to travel to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. I think this is a perfectly reasonable request. The hon. member for Yukon has agreed to withdraw his motion, and I cannot see why members on the Liberal benches oppose this important necessity to get a resolution of the problems in the Yukon.

[Mr. Symes.]

Mr. Watson: We happen to be here to protect the interests of Canada, and we want to have something to say on the original motion this afternoon.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing to prevent the hon. member for Laprairie from speaking on the motion which is about to be made. He just does not want it to go to committee, and he does not want to hear the views of northerners.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mrs. Campagnolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peters: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) on a point of order.

Mr. Peters: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, follows the point of order which was first raised. I see no reason why my colleague cannot move an amendment to the motion, which he was prepared to do. I see no reason why Your Honour should not give consideration to his moving that amendment. It does not need to involve the hon. member for Yukon at all. I suggest that my colleague can move an amendment asking that the subject matter of the motion before us be referred to a committee. I suggest that that is a perfectly legitimate amendment to the motion before us.

Mr. Nielsen: Further on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, there have been many instances in the House where motions have been amended in the same way that the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie is seeking to amend this motion. One instance occurred last Friday where there was no vote taken; nonetheless, a motion for production of papers was amended. There have been instances in the past where motions, having been put, have been amended, and that is all that is sought here. Surely a member should not be precluded from doing so, particularly when the mover of the motion is fully in accord with the amendment, as I am and as I have stated, indeed to the extent of withdrawing it and having it replaced, in order that the voice of northerners might be heard on this matter. This is very crucial to them, and surely it behooves any member of this House not to stand in the way of the voice of northerners being heard.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to move the amendment, and I believe that is in order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Yes. The Chair was concerned that a second motion was being put to the House, and I wished to keep each of these in order. I understood from the hon. member for Yukon that he was going to seek consent of the House to withdraw his motion, and we were simply following that procedure. I now understand that it is the wish of the hon. member to propose an amendment, and of course that is perfectly in order. Such an amendment may, at this time, be presented to the House, and it should be also presented to