

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 6, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask leave of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, arising from the confusion and concern that exist in many parts of the country with regard to land claims and aboriginal rights of the native peoples of Canada. I would hope that the government would be disposed to accept this motion, particularly since it was so receptive to the motion put forward yesterday by the hon. member—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is argument. The hon. member is not allowed to do that. The hon. member should indicate, as soon as possible, what the motion is.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Taylor):

That the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development for consideration and report.

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, exactly the same as that on which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) rose yesterday, I would suggest to the government that since it was so receptive yesterday to a motion exactly the same proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), this motion should commend itself to the government for acceptance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That, of course, is not a point of order. The hon. member is arguing in favour of the motion proposed by the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands. I suggest to the House that if we get involved in a practice where members, on a point of order, argue in favour of a motion proposed under Standing Order 43, we will move forward only with pain and difficulty.

Mr. Nielsen: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I rose on a point of order which was exactly the same as that raised by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources yesterday. The Chair found no fault with it, so

25714—63½

I presumed that my point of order today would be acceptable.

Mr. Speaker: I found serious fault with this procedure. Standing Order 43 does not make it possible for the President of the Privy Council, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources or any other member to rise and say that he refuses or accepts a proposed motion under Standing Order 43. That is why I feel that such motions have to be proposed as quickly as possible without argument either from one side or the other. I agree with the hon. member for Yukon that it is irregular at this point either for a minister to stand and say he agrees to a motion or for a member to argue by way of a point of order that it should be accepted.

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I rise to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, and much more to the point, I think, than the preposterous stupidity we just heard from the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands (Miss MacDonald).

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I suggest to the hon. member that his comments are irregular and certainly cannot be brought into a motion under Standing Order 43. The hon. member has the floor for the purpose of indicating what his motion is.

Mr. Howard: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Howard: The motion, seconded by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth), which, as I said, is much more to the point, is as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development be authorized to investigate all aspects of the question of aboriginal rights of the native Indian and Eskimo people of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.