

S.O. 43

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE ABUSES AT RETAIL LEVEL RESULTING FROM METRIC
CONVERSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, I rise on an urgent matter related to the motion of my colleague, the hon. member for Erie (Mr. Fretz), and under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the Consumers' Association of Canada is investigating complaints by its members of price rip-offs at the retail level because of metric conversion, and since the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs funds the CAC in order for it to be vigilant on behalf of consumers, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis):

That this House requires the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to table the findings of the Consumers' Association of Canada report and to act on the CAC's recommendations if abuses are found as a result of metric conversion at the retail level.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NEW HORIZONS PROGRAM

DISMISSAL OF SHEILA ZIMMERMAN—INVESTIGATION OF
AWARDING OF GRANTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker I rise on an urgent matter concerning special assistant Sheila Zimmerman's recent questionable dismissal by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) as the alleged author of a letter to Liberal members of Parliament on New Horizons grants, and now a further letter, a copy of which I have here, issued by Bill de Laat, special assistant to the former minister of national health and welfare, the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), addressed to all Liberal members of Parliament and dated May 10, 1977.

● (1410)

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Ellis):

That because the 1977 bilingual letter in the French version gives similar New Horizons grant veto power to all Liberal members of Parliament, as in Mrs. Zimmerman's recent letter, this House declares Mrs. Zimmerman wrongfully dismissed for a system in effect for years and, finally, the House requests a parliamentary investigation of awarding methods, not only for New Horizons grants but all grants under government jurisdiction, for the dual purpose of protecting reputations of ministerial employees and particularly to determine what extent such grants have been and are awarded by ministers against a background of shocking patronage shovels digging into public funds.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

INFORMATION

REQUESTED REPLACEMENT OF TERM "FEDERAL GOVERNMENT"
BY "CANADIAN GOVERNMENT" OR "GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA"—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion dealing with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering the systematic use made by the Quebec separatists of the phrase "le fédéral" to refer to the Canadian government, considering the frequent use of this phrase made by parliamentary reporters of the CBC French network and by the media in general, considering the disparaging connotation that such an overuse gave to the word "le fédéral", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Lapointe):

That this House recommend that press gallery reporters and any other member of the CBC French network news team as well as other French media use the terms "Gouvernement canadien" or "Gouvernement du Canada" instead of "le fédéral" to refer to the government of our country in any news coverage or documentary presented to Canadians.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[English]

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE OF JUSTICES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) last week made the novel and disconcerting statement that, while judges may not vote, it is acceptable for them to retain partisan political connections. This concept is diametrically opposed to long-standing principles of the common law respecting the independence of the judiciary. In view of the fact that one item on the constitutional reform agenda is the reorganization of the Supreme Court of Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp):

That this House direct the Prime Minister to make a statement on motions as to the political allegiance of each member of the Supreme Court of Canada and whether his proposals for reorganization of the said court will involve the filing