

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the presentation of such a motion?

Some hon. Members: No!

An hon. Member: Cover up!

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[Translation]

CONFEDERATION

REQUEST THAT THE ALLEGED QUARREL OVER ACCOUNTING WITH QUEBEC COME TO AN END—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to put a motion dealing with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In view of the fact that some federal ministers, especially the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Chrétien) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) have launched a real campaign on the advantages of Confederation for Quebec in spite of the statements made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to the effect that his government would not quarrel over figures; considering that those ministers are making a disgraceful show by throwing figures at each other like children throwing stones and as such behaviour is inconsistent with the dignity and seriousness which the people expect from their representatives, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise):

That the House ask ministers of the Crown to refrain immediately from quarrelling about figures with the Quebec government, since this quarrel, far from contributing to the enlightenment of the debate, only reflects on the credibility and dignity of the people's representatives.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF ALLEGATION OF POOR DEPLOYMENT OF ICEBREAKERS AROUND NEWFOUNDLAND—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the serious charges, in essence of negligence and maladministration, made by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker) who is also Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue, against the Ministry of Transport in respect of icebreaker services off the east coast of Canada and the charge that the sinking of the *William Carson* could have been prevented if

Oral Questions

there were better deployment of icebreakers off Newfoundland and Labrador, that the present deployment is "scandalous" and that there is only one icebreaker operating off Newfoundland, with one on lease and four or five lying idle in Dartmouth, I therefore wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That these charges be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications for examination of the hon. member and the Minister of Transport and for investigation and report back to the House as to the validity or otherwise of the charges.

● (1410)

Mr. Speaker: The provisions of Standing Order 43 require the unanimous consent of the House for the presentation of such a motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF FOR UNITED KINGDOM, ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD ASHMORE

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before beginning the oral question period I know that hon. members would want to join with me in signalling the presence in our gallery of a distinguished visitor here for NATO meetings. I refer to the chief of the defence staff for the United Kingdom, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF EARLY AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ON EXPORT OF URANIUM AND NUCLEAR REACTORS

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the minister of external affairs. I should like to commence by thanking the minister for agreeing to postpone his statement on nuclear safeguards in general at the specific request of our party; I appreciate that very much. There are one or two matters I should like to raise which may perhaps be pertinent because of their timing.

First of all, I understand the minister is against starting negotiations with Japan, and I would like to ask him whether it is probable that Canada will reach some understanding with Japan about nuclear exports of uranium and reactors, either formally or informally, before the Group of Seven report promised after the summit meetings in London comes down?