

willing to raise the question in the House under Standing Order 43, the government would have no objection to debating the issue", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence), and not opposed by the government House leader:

That the subject matter of the communications pending before the United Nations Human Rights Committee be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for a recommendation as to the appropriate response to these communications.

**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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### BROADCASTING ACT

HEARINGS BEFORE CRTC—COMMITTEE STUDY OF POSSIBLE BREACH OF LEGISLATION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The CRTC has an established precedent of not requiring further public hearings for licence applicants who have been granted a provisional licence.

In view of the case of Family Radio of Vancouver, British Columbia, the quasi-judicial body has not only required an appearance before two further public hearings, but has even permitted a negative intervention after the granting of provisional licence, a break with its own operating policy. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen):

That the CRTC be called before the Standing Committee on Culture and Communications to explain this action which has jeopardized the objectivity of its quasi-judicial status, and to see whether the commission is indeed in breach of the Broadcasting Act.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

● (1415)

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### THE CONSTITUTION

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING HOLDING NATIONAL REFERENDUM—DISCUSSION WITH PREMIERS

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Clark:** I accept that applause on my side of the House, Madam Speaker, as being an indication that my colleagues hope my forty-first year, which begins today, will be more totally satisfying than my fortieth year was.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** I have a question for the Prime Minister, but before posing it let me take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Prime Minister for starting the practice of consultation with leaders of other federal parties prior to a federal-provincial constitutional meeting.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** One matter that was not discussed specifically in the conversations between the Prime Minister and myself yesterday was the possibility of a federal referendum. I raise the question now because there have been references to such device made by the hon. member for Labelle speaking, I believe, in his capacity as chairman of the Quebec Liberal caucus.

I wonder whether the Prime Minister could indicate to the House if the government is now considering legislation that would empower a national referendum.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I want to begin my reply by wishing the right hon. member many happy returns of the day.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** In so far as our meeting yesterday is concerned, I am very happy it took place. I hope, indeed, that the practice will continue. The Leader of the Opposition was good enough to consult me on some matters when I was in his seat, and I am very happy to continue that practice.

In so far as his question is concerned, I am sorry we did not discuss it yesterday, because I would have been happy to have the views of the Leader of the Opposition.

**An hon. Member:** He asked for your view.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I understand that. The view of the government is that this matter is not being considered by the government at this time, but the House will remember that we had a referendum bill which would have been supported, with some modification, by the opposition party a couple of years ago. I am not saying the matter is discarded forever, but I am saying we are not considering such a move at this time.

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would take the opportunity to confirm publicly his interest, which we discussed yesterday, in working with other parties in the House of Commons to promote an appropriate reference for a resolution that would allow this whole federal Parliament to discuss questions relating to the renewal of Canadian federalism and the development of constitutional change.