

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 29, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

SOCIAL SECURITY

LEGISLATION RESPECTING SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE AND GIS—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the findings of the Toronto Social Planning Council, in the study just released on old age security for the metropolitan Toronto area, that people were living in poverty and that widows and single females were especially hard hit, confirming a survey by Statistics Canada that 61.7 per cent unattached pensioners were living below the poverty line as of 1976, I wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander):

That this House directs the Minister of National Health and Welfare to bring in legislation before the summer adjournment to provide for a continuation of the spouses' allowance after the death of the older spouse and, further, that the legislation provide for an adjustment in the guaranteed income supplements which would more adequately reflect real increases in the cost of living since the last increase was made prior to indexing.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for debate, pursuant to Standing Order 43, requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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POST OFFICE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUPW—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Considering that until the past weekend the Post Office had not made a single proposal which goes beyond the old contract with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers since that contract expired almost a year ago, and considering that such an attitude is most likely to produce a strike which neither the people of Canada nor the workers involved desire, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House instructs the Postmaster General to assume his responsibilities and ensure that positive proposals are presented soon by the Post Office in its negotiations with CUPW.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for debate at this time would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SUBMISSION ON PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND MERIT
PRINCIPLE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43. On April 20 there were press reports that the Public Service Commission had decided not to make public its submission to the D'Avignon committee on personnel management and the merit principle in the public service because the impending election might turn the submission into a political football. Since the Prime Minister subsequently revealed that an election was not impending at all, I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker):

That this House requests the Public Service Commission to publish forthwith its submission to the D'Avignon committee so that the public and members of parliament may have the opportunity to examine its proposals respecting the public service of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for debate at this time would require unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO NATO—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity arising from the meeting of NATO in Washington this week. In light of the commitment Canada has made to its NATO allies and the dangers still facing the west from the Warsaw pact, and because of the evidence that the Warsaw pact nations have not ceased to