

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH KOREA—PROTEST OF DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON KIM DAE-JUNG—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the continued harassment and persecution of Kim Dae-Jung, former presidential candidate and leader of the non-communist opposition in South Korea, which has culminated in the military court handing down the death sentence, and in view of the limited possibilities of appeal procedures and the extreme possibility of an early execution, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta):

That this House protest the deplorable action of the military court in South Korea in sentencing to death Kim Dae-Jung, and that this House urge Korean President Chun to secure the release of Mr. Kim.

Madam Speaker: Presentation of 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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ENERGY

NATIONAL GAS EXPORTS—GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO BE HONOURED—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the authority of Standing Order 43. In light of the Liberal government's dismal track record in ignoring its campaign promises, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser):

That the House direct the Liberal government to honour their commitments made on an open line show in Vancouver by the present government House leader in the other place, that there will be no federal tax on the export of natural gas.

Mr. MacEachen: Who said that?

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

INQUIRY WHETHER STATEMENT OF MINISTER GOVERNMENT POLICY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have some questions for the Prime Minister that relate to a practice which we believe constitutes a grave abuse of both Parliament and of public funds. The Minister of State for Multiculturalism was asked on television this morning whether the government's policy was, and I quote as follows:

Before any of our taxpayers' money is spent we want to know that Parliament has approved of the concept that you are advertising.

The answer of the minister was:

In principle, that is right.

I wonder if the Prime Minister would tell us whether the minister was speaking for the government?

Mr. Andre: The government has no principles.

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Madam Speaker, of course I was speaking in my role as chairman of the cabinet committee on communications. If I may, to correct—among the hee-haws from the opposition—what was said this morning, I said that I believed—and this is the policy we have followed—that advertising carried out and paid for out of public funds by the federal government should widely reflect Parliament, as our phase one ads on the constitution run in August did. I believe they reflected the opinions on all sides of the House of Commons to call for constitutional reform during the referendum debate. I said that I also felt that it was either support from all sides of the House or a policy that had at least been passed in principle in the House.

PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, the strange reluctance of the Prime Minister to answer that question, which had to do with the statement of government policy and the qualification by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism that he had made that statement in his capacity as chairman of the cabinet committee, leaves unanswered whether or not the minister was speaking for the government, and whether the policy that was stated and quoted exactly from a transcript of a program on CTV this morning, and which differs slightly from what the minister had just said in the House, that in principle the Government of Canada can justify spending taxpayers' money only when Parliament has approved of the concept that has been advertised, is the position of the Government of Canada.

I would ask the Prime Minister not to fob that off on to someone else, but to speak for his government himself and tell us whether that is the policy of his government.