

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, July 28, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

LOUIS RIEL

REPORT ON POSSIBLE PARDON—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Madam Speaker, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Justice have had a complete and comprehensive study undertaken on the implications of a pardon for Louis Riel. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43 I move, seconded by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields):

That the government and the minister immediately make that report available to members of this House and the public in order to assist those who are interested.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAELI BOMBING OF BEIRUT—TRIBUTE TO COURAGE OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AND STAFF—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, in light of the bombing in Beirut and the heightened danger to all civilians in the city as a consequence, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil):

That this House commends the unflinching devotion to duty demonstrated by Canada's ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Théodore Arcand, and the members of his staff who, despite having to face danger both day and night, have remained at their post to serve as a channel of communications in both directions between the Canadian government and the Lebanese government and also as a means of obtaining information for Canadians about their relatives who may be in Beirut, and further, urges the government to give consideration, because of this response by those stout-hearted Canadians, to proposing their names for an appropriate form of recognition by Canada for their actions.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I think we have all been moved these last few days by the outstanding

performance of Canada's ambassador in Lebanon and serving as a means of communication between Canada and Lebanon and reporting to Canada on the very significant and disturbing events which are taking place in that area. I feel it is right that this House should mark, by this motion, its recognition of that performance not only by the ambassador but also by his staff in the performance of their duty.

As one who has lived in Beirut in happier days, I find it very sad that these events should be taking place and that we should be watching the loss of life of Lebanese citizens, and the destruction of buildings. I feel that our ambassador and his staff deserve our highest commendation.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Madam Speaker, unfortunately, until this very instant I was not aware that my distinguished colleague and friend would raise this question. However, I cannot let this moment go by without adding a few comments to the words spoken by my distinguished colleague.

Madam Speaker, I am, of course, speaking only for myself, and certainly not in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, and I do not think I am necessarily the spokesman for the Liberal Party of Canada. But I do know that I will be reflecting the views of many of my colleagues from all three parties in the House.

Madam Speaker, I think the time has come for us to realize, and I know many of us do, that we shall finally have to address ourselves to the problem: what are we going to do about the Palestinian question? What is now happening in West Beirut is totally unacceptable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1410)

[English]

I want to say, Madam Speaker, that I, too, share the great admiration expressed by my distinguished colleague for Ambassador Théodore Arcand, and I am asking too if the time has not come not only to send a letter of protest. I know how difficult it is to address ourselves to the question in Canada, but our consciences dictate that we should address the question of the Palestinians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, I want to say as a Canadian—and I repeat, as a Canadian—that I profoundly