

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin)—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—Request for extension of service to small communities; the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes)—Communications—Bell Canada contract with Saudi Arabia; the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan)—Elections—Reason for Prime Minister's announcement.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Notice of motion, item No. 14, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). Shall the item stand?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions, whether anyone is here to confirm those discussions or not, to the effect that we might let all of the items stand down to No. 17, and that we might proceed with the resumption of that debate this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it agreed by unanimous consent that items 14, 13, 3, 7, 9 stand?

Mr. Paproski: Yes, that is agreed.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH STANDING JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The House resumed from Monday, January 30, consideration of the motion of Mrs. Pigott:

That, in the opinion of this House, the National Capital Commission is not sufficiently accountable to those who live in the national capital region or the people of Canada, and exercises its powers in an arbitrary manner without adequate consultation with other levels of government and, that as a just step, there should be a permanent standing joint committee on the national capital region.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Harquail) who, I believe, spoke for three minutes the last day.

National Capital Commission

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, before continuing with my remarks from January 30 of this year on motion No. 17, I would like to quote the motion:

That, in the opinion of this House, the National Capital Commission is not sufficiently accountable to those who live in the national capital region or the people of Canada, and exercises its powers in an arbitrary manner without adequate consultation with other levels of government and, that as a just step, there should be a permanent standing joint committee on the national capital region.

Continuing from where I left off on January 30, I find it strange that the hon. member would bring such a motion into this House given the fact that she is at the moment a member of the special committee of the House concerning itself directly with all aspects relating to the National Capital Commission. I am proud of the area that is comprised in the National Capital Commission, and it is something of which all Canadians can be proud. Indeed, any Canadians having had the opportunity to visit the national capital, I am sure are as equally impressed and proud of what we have as I am.

• (1702)

The hon. member who brought in this motion has had an opportunity to express her views on the day-to-day workings of the National Capital Commission in the special committee, and has done so in a very positive way. In the short time that she has been in this House she has made a worthwhile contribution as a member of that special committee.

Considering the mandate of the special committee, however, the fact that the NCC is accountable to the government and is required to obtain authority from Treasury Board for its expenditures, and considering the position of the commission, there is no justification for stating that the NCC is not sufficiently accountable. Furthermore, considering the significant improvement in the intergovernmental climate and in the range of programs within the NCR—joint programs such as public transit, pollution abatement, core area revitalization, and environmental improvement—there is no justification for the assertion that consultation and co-operation with other levels of government are lacking.

The hon. member, it seems to me, might have taken the opportunity to withdraw her motion since she has every equal and good opportunity to have her voice and views heard at the special committee which has already accomplished a great deal in the deliberations that have been going on for some considerable period of time. As a matter of interest, in my view the special committee has all but completed its work. It still has to review the reports and material gathered from witnesses, however.

In her short time in this House the hon. member who moved motion No. 17 has brought forward some excellent suggestions to committee about the mechanism and method of approach to accomplish the things she is concerned with such as better control of or input into the day-to-day workings of the commission. I have put some views forward myself in the course of the committee discussions and I have seen and felt some very real frustration about the operations of the NCC because of its