

SALARY RANGE OF STAFF—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43, by unanimous consent, in connection with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. It is related to the subject which has just been discussed, and in view of the statements made in that connection I will omit the preamble or explanatory statement and simply move, seconded by my hon. friend from Winnipeg North:

That the question of the salary range of the staff of the Auditor General be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, so that the committee might consider recommending that the said salary range be determined by parliament rather than by the Treasury Board.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion which the hon. member for Selkirk seeks to propose. Again, the unanimous consent of the House is required.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: I have to advise that there is no unanimity and in these circumstances, by virtue of Standing Order 43, the motion cannot be put at this time.

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA RATE INCREASE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask the House to agree to a motion concerning Bell Canada.

Yesterday the Canadian Transport Commission again approved an increase in basic residential and business telephone rates amounting to approximately \$22.5 million. It was only a year ago that the CTC approved increases requested by Bell Canada which added at that time \$27.5 million to the company's revenues. The new decision means that Bell Canada will have an increase of \$50 million in a year and will be able to earn a 7.5 per cent rate of return on invested capital compared with the maximum of 6.6 per cent allowed by the former Board of Transport Commissioners. It is obvious that the Canadian Transport Commission does not protect the people of Canada and continues to allow Bell Canada to milk the public.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I bring it to the attention of the hon. member, again with respect, that he should indicate the terms of his motion. Standing Order 43 will become difficult to accept as a workable Standing Order if hon. members do not take into account its limitations. Hon. members have the right, under the terms of this rule, to indicate briefly why there is urgency, why the matter they have in mind should be put now in preference to the ordinary business of the House, but I do not think they can import debate concerning the substance of the matter proposed for discussion in the suggested motion.

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Bell Canada Rate Increase

Mr. Orlikow: I have completed the reasons for seeking unanimous consent. I will therefore move, seconded by my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre:

That the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to meet forthwith and proceed as quickly as possible to investigate and analyse the activities of Bell Canada and its subsidiaries, and report back to the House as soon as possible.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North.

[Translation]

This motion, proposed under Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. I must therefore ask hon. members whether they are all in agreement.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent.

[English]

Therefore the motion cannot be submitted at this time.

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ELECTION EXPENSES

CONCURRENCE IN RECOMMENDATION IN FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Hyl Chappell (Peel South) moved that the recommendation contained in the first report of the Special Committee on Election Expenses, presented to the House on Thursday, November 26, 1970, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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PENSION ACT AND CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES ACT

PROVISION OF INCREASES IN BENEFITS

Hon. Jean Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-203, to amend the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION ADJUSTMENT ACT PAYMENTS—
SUPERANNUATION ACT PENSION DISCONTINUANCES**

Question No. 67—Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):

1. In each year since the Public Service Pension Adjustment Act of 1959 was passed, how many persons have received payments thereunder?