

*Indian Affairs*

**Mr. Speaker:** I think in the circumstances it is incumbent on the Chair to bring to the attention of the hon. member the provisions of subsection 16(d) of Standing Order 26 which has reference to a motion under the terms of the standing order:

(d) the motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session pursuant to the provisions of this standing order;

My understanding of the hon. member's motion is that it is substantially the same as one which was discussed under the provisions of Standing Order 26 on January 22 last when a similar motion moved by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) was accepted by the Chair. I think the provisions of the standing order are clear. It would not be possible even under the circumstances outlined by the hon. member to allow the adjournment of the house at the present time for the purpose of discussing the hon. member's motion.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT NATIVE PEOPLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, that this is the second day in a row that I am moving a motion. I am trying to pay careful attention to Your Honour's ruling of yesterday.

I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), to move the adjournment of the house under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the current discussions which the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is having with the premiers of provinces and with Indian people and the turbulence and fury which is arising therefrom.

An hon. member is saying that I am out of my mind.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has given the Chair notice of the proposed motion. I have to admit that this is one of four motions submitted earlier today, or yesterday, for the consideration of the Chair and which has given me very serious difficulties. I sincerely think it is a borderline case and I have been wondering whether the motion of the hon. member might be allowed in the present circumstances.

[Mr. Southam.]

Even as I stand before hon. members now, I am not sure that this motion ought not to be granted. The matter raised by the hon. member is certainly one of urgency. It might appeal to hon. members to debate it in the sense that, as the hon. member has suggested, the proposed debate would have reference to discussions which the minister is having at the present time with the Indian people and with provincial authorities.

It may be that hon. members might want to have an opportunity to express to the house and to the government their views in connection with these discussions. In view of the fact that I have had these serious doubts I would think that they should be resolved in favour of the motion.

**Some hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members will take into account that actually such an adjournment debate may take place only later today and that only one hour—I was going to say of government time but that would be incorrect; it would be House of Commons time—would be involved. In view of this I think hon. members would not mind giving up one hour of discussion in the debate now before the house, for the purpose of considering this important matter.

I would add one word of caution at the present time, and remind hon. members that the staff of the house has been under pressure lately. I would hope some arrangement would be arrived at between hon. members to limit the length and number of speeches during the adjournment debate later this day, so that the staff could be given an opportunity to leave the premises at a reasonable hour, and not late at night as has happened in the case of two or three of the previous debates embarked upon by the house under standing order 26. This is a suggestion I am making to hon. members, and the house leaders may want to have discussion on this point later.

In view of what I have said, the motion will be put. Has the hon. member leave to proceed with the motion pursuant to Standing Order 26?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 26 the debate will take place from three o'clock this afternoon.