

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 19, 1979

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GRAIN

REQUEST GOVERNMENT REVERSE DECISION TO SELL OR CLOSE CERTAIN GRAIN ELEVATORS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In light of the decision of the government to sell five inland grain elevators in the prairie provinces and a port elevator at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and in light of the fact that such decision has been made at a time when record utilization and profits are being experienced by the terminals in Saskatchewan and pitifully small offers have been received on the tenders for these elevators, and in the case of the government elevator in Saskatoon no bid at all was received, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil):

That this House directs the government to reverse its wrong-headed decision to sell or close the five inland grain elevators and the port elevator at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, as the sale for closing of the said elevators at this time can only have a negative effect on grain handling and transportation in western Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of such a motion at this time can be done, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

HERITAGE DAY

RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to present under Standing Order 43 and I feel sure that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) will be happy to second it.

Mr. MacEachen: No.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If by chance he is not, my friend, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), will do so. Did the Deputy Prime Minister say yes, or no?

Mr. MacEachen: I said no.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this House (a) notes that this is National Heritage Day, (b) regrets that legislation to make this day a holiday has not yet been passed, and (c) expresses the hope that whatever government is in power later this year will support such legislation so that all Canadians can enjoy a February holiday and be reminded of the richness of our national heritage.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be introduced for debate at this time, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

● (1410)

POST OFFICE ACT

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT RESPECTING RURAL ROUTE MAIL CARRIER CONTRACTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on an urgent matter of public importance.

On March 17, 1978, the Postmaster General admitted in the House that rural route mail carriers, in the face of continuing inflation, are suffering because of the \$10,000 ceiling imposed on rural contracts, and promised that steps would be taken to amend the Post Office Act with a view to ending this discriminatory practice. Because of the government's failure to act, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay):

That the Postmaster General introduce at the earliest possible opportunity an amendment to the Post Office Act designed to remedy this long-standing injustice, as promised by him and his predecessors over the past few years.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be introduced at this time for debate only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.