

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 31, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DENOUNCEMENT OF CUBA'S WARLIKE ACTIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, namely, that in view of the UN conference of western leaders in Washington, and the UN General Assembly in New York on disarmament indicating the deep concern of the United States, although Canada has been virtually silent both in parliament and outside with respect thereto, regarding Cuba's warring intervention in Africa, with Soviet inspiration, by which the U.S.S.R. has taken over Angola and now threatens other countries, I move:

This House, recognizing that the Prime Minister of Canada is an intimate friend of President Castro, believes that if the Prime Minister were to make a public condemnation of Cuba's military operations it could be most influential in causing Castro to desist in his course of warlike action that may lead to a third world war, calls on the Prime Minister publicly to demand that Castro desist from his war operations and return the Cuban troops to their homeland.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The introduction of such a motion for debate, pursuant to Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that women are still being discriminated against in making career choices with the Canadian armed forces, and whereas the minister undertook some time ago to review his department's policies regarding women who wish to apply for

training as pilots but who are now rejected solely because of their sex, and whereas the chief human rights commissioner has expressed an opinion that this could be in violation of section 2 of the Human Rights Act, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House instruct the minister to make a statement to this House on policy changes and steps he is taking, or intends to take, to ensure that our daughters, as well as our sons, may train for whatever career they desire.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43, the introduction of such a motion for debate requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

PUBLIC ACCESS THERETO—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent necessity concerning remarks made to a joint Senate-House of Commons committee yesterday by the Secretary of State on the subject of freer access to government information, and particularly widely-published press reports today that the Secretary of State advised the committee that he was generally in favour of such a thing "rather than on the side of holding back". I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That the Secretary of State immediately qualify the gross inconsistency between his statement of yesterday and his remarks in an address to the Toronto Liberal forum on May 10, 1978, in which he vowed that as long as he is Secretary of State, members of parliament will not be allowed information on the reasons for awarding Canada Council grants. Specifically, this House deplores what appears to be a two-faced policy by the Secretary of State, and also requests an immediate statement from the minister as to whether he was speaking for the government when he said, in regard to making information public, "In a literal sense there is not a government policy".

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.