

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 10, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF CNT APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. On April 3, the CRTC gave notice it would be holding public hearings on April 11, in Gander, into a rate application by CN Telecommunications for a 20 per cent rate increase on the telephone system in Newfoundland and a 30 per cent increase on long-distance calls within the province. This compares with the normal 60 days' notice given by the CRTC for similar hearings into the Bell system affecting Ontario and Quebec. I believe, sir, that this is tantamount to second-hand treatment of Newfoundland taxpayers and ratepayers on the CN system, and I find that abhorrent.

With the consent of the House, I would move the following motion, seconded by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski):

That this House directs the CRTC to postpone its public hearings scheduled for tomorrow at Gander, Newfoundland, into an application by CN Telecommunications for a 20 per cent rate increase to its telephone subscribers in Newfoundland and a 30 per cent rate increase for long-distance calls within the province on the CNT system in order to give intervenors a reasonable time to prepare their case.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for discussion would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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IMMIGRATION

GOVERNMENT URGED TO GRANT POLITICAL ASYLUM TO CHILEAN NATIONAL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of the same order, in view of the fact that

the right of political asylum is recognized as one of the last lines of defence for democratic and human rights, in view of the fact that Galindo Madrid Avilez, because of his actions and criticisms of the Chilean regime, faces a real risk to his life or safety if he is deported to Chile, in view of the fact—known to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and his department—of the brutal nature of the Pinochet government in Chile, and in view of the fact that if returned to Chile, Galindo Madrid Avilez faces certain imprisonment and possible death for exercising what in Canada would be his right of free speech, I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the Minister of Employment and Immigration immediately grant Galindo Madrid Avilez political asylum.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for discussion at this time would require the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

REQUEST GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT NOT BE REDUCED—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Considering that Quebec pensions and private pension funds paid for by a citizen during his active life cannot be considered as new income, and considering that, such pensions being acquired values just like a single family house or even an amount of money bearing no interest, it is unfair and discriminatory to consider these pension plans as new income, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That the government introduce a bill immediately before an election is called stating clearly that payments on accumulated funds will no longer reduce the guaranteed income supplements of elderly people.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the hon. member's motion. Presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?