

Tribute to Members

I want to assure the House that I have not treated this matter lightly and that I have given serious consideration to all aspects of the hon. member's submissions. My conclusion is that if the complaints raised by the hon. member are to be remedied, this should be effected by amendments to our Standing Orders as they relate to committee proceedings rather than by a reference to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. For these reasons, I do not think that I am at liberty to put the hon. member's motion to the House.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE BY MEMBERS FOR PRINCE ALBERT AND OTTAWA CENTRE

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might have the indulgence of the House for a moment to call attention to a happier occasion than the one to which Your Honour has just referred. I believe today is the thirty-first anniversary of the entry into the House of two of our most distinguished members, my right hon. friend from Prince Albert and the hon. member for Ottawa Centre.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacLean: The contribution of these hon. members to the public life of Canada is remarkable not only for its quality, one having served as prime minister and the other as minister in numerous portfolios, but also for the length of their survival in the very perilous occupation of Member of Parliament. They have longer continuous service than any other member of the House at the present time, and I thought it would be inappropriate for this anniversary to pass unmarked.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Thirteenth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in the two official languages—Mr. Clermont.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.—Mr. LeBlanc (Rimouski) (on behalf of chairman).

[English]

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

Third report of Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works—Mr. Hymmen.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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TRANSPORT

BORDEN-TORMENTINE FERRY SERVICE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I seek leave to move a motion concerning the provision of transportation facilities between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, a matter in the jurisdiction and responsibility of the government and Parliament of Canada. Seconded by the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean), I move:

That this House refer to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications the question of the removal of the newest and largest icebreaking ferry from the Borden-Tormentine service and the consequent reduction of the service to one icebreaker.

That the committee be asked also to study the general question of transportation between Prince Edward Island and the mainland and the degree to which the Dominion of Canada is carrying out its confederation commitment to Prince Edward Island to provide continuous and efficient communication with the rest of the dominion.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Hillsborough. This motion requires the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and I regret to advise the hon. member that the motion, under the terms of Standing Order 43, cannot be put at this time.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

OIL

TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE—CONSULTATION WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs but I shall direct it to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the oil route is still a great national issue, has the Canadian government suggested a specific date for talks with the United States government and has the United States government refused to meet for formal talks on the TAPS route?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): To the best of my knowledge we have sug-