

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the documents requested deal with negotiations under way which could lead to agreements between municipal, provincial and federal governments and cannot be disclosed. I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

An hon. Member: Transfer for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Allowed to stand. Transferred for debate.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

Motion No. 15—**Mr. Brisco:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of all papers and documents, studies, reports and correspondence between the government and the Province of British Columbia and/or British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, relating to the duties and functions to be carried out by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority in its capacity as the designated entity under the Columbia River Treaty and subsequent protocol endorsed by the Governments of Canada and the United States, specifically under Article XIV of the Treaty, including any and all exchanges of notes between the Governments of Canada and the United States exchanged under Article XIV and any other material, documents, papers, studies and correspondence in the possession of the government concerning the possibility of designating another entity than British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority as the agent of Canada under the Treaty, or the appointment of a second Canadian entity under the Treaty to share responsibility with British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, or the empowering or charging of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority with the responsibility of ensuring the greater stability of the Arrow Lakes and the suspension of all progress on the Kootenay River Diversion project.

Mr. Pierre Bussièrès (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the production of those papers would require lengthy and detailed research in the archives, but the main facts, including the duties and functions of the Canadian group concerned, as well as supporting documents, can be found in the following publication: *The Columbia River Treaty and Protocol—A Presentation—February 1964*. It is available at the parliament library as well as the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

There have been no other discussions and therefore no other correspondence or documents on the possibility of designating another or a second group, or in connection with the responsibilities of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority with regard to the stability of the shores of the Arrow Lakes or the Kootenay River Diversion project.

In view of the above, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

[*English*]

Mr. Brisco: I will withdraw the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Withdrawn.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motions for the production of documents be allowed to stand?

Point of Order—Mr. Andre

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, there is, under the production of papers, No. 18. Did the hon. member say it would be allowed to stand?

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I have already said that the motion for the production of papers No. 18 is acceptable to the government.

Mr. Paproski: I am sorry. That is the first time that anything has been acceptable.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. ANDRE—SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A)

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday, in accordance with practices which we have been following over the last short while, the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) raised by way of a point of order his concern with a \$1 item in the estimates. I thank the hon. member for having taken the occasion yesterday, the second last allotted day in this part of the session, to raise the matter. I would like to reiterate to the House that, having done that and thereby giving opportunity yesterday for a brief argument on both sides, it has given the Chair an opportunity to adjudicate on the matter in advance of the last allotted day and, therefore, in advance of the time pressures that are already too heavy upon the supply procedure on the last day.

I believe I gave the hon. member yesterday a preliminary indication of the procedural difficulty which I face. That was that the \$1 item to which he had taken objection had simply extended the authority which was already placed in the original and main estimate, and was in precisely the same language in the main estimate item. It is therefore clear that the item does not seek any authority which was not sought in the main estimate and already dealt with at an earlier date by this House.

On the strength of precedents that I have already recited over the last one or two supply arguments of this sort, I am not able to intervene procedurally because the \$1 item is not there for the purpose, obviously, of seeking any new authority. I cannot deal with it at this time.

The language which appears in the last line of vote 30a is remarkable. The hon. member has brought this to the attention of the House, and it was dealt with in a brief way by the President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen). It reads:

—notwithstanding that the total of such payments may exceed the equivalent in Canadian dollars estimated as of October, 1977—

That language led the hon. member to fear that that appeared to be some sort of authority to go beyond the amount of the item. If so, it would seem to be at cross purposes with our whole supply process to use language which might extend to any organization or agency authority to spend more money than they were getting through the vote.