

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 24, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity and the motion cannot be put.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Third report of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications—Mr. Horner (Crowfoot).

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

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH MARC CAYER ON TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table the text of correspondence between the Department of External Affairs and Mr. Marc Cayer on the subject of the expenses associated with his return to Canada, as well as the text of a departmental memorandum itemizing these expenses. I have also included an English translation of the letters and a French translation of the memorandum.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

PHASING OUT OF VETERANS LAND ACT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's- St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to move a motion under Standing Order 43. The decision by the government to phase out the Veterans Land Act in March, 1974, will deny a majority of 125,000 veterans now qualified and other servicemen who will retire the opportunity to take advantage of the act because of the lack of flexibility in qualifying due to changing conditions. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Beattie):

That a joint study be appointed immediately to look into the problem, and that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

MANAGEMENT STUDY PROPOSED BY AUDITOR GENERAL—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent business arising out of the report of the Auditor General tabled yesterday and having to do with his call for a management study of government organization, administration, methods and procedures involving federal expenditures now exceeding \$20 billion per year. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House urges the government to take immediate steps to supply the Public Accounts Committee of parliament with expanded resources, including research, legal and other staff necessary to conduct a thoroughgoing, in-depth and in-breadth examination of our immense and complex expenditures to enable the most effective and economical use of such outlays in the public interest.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member for Shefford might allow the Chair to make one comment about the proposed motion of the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock. I have serious doubts whether this motion is in order. The hon. member is referring to a report which is before a committee at the present time. I have stated before and I should like to restate now that hon. members should not take it for granted or assume that any motion proposed under Standing Order 43 is in order and that the Speaker is under an obligation to put it to the House to determine whether there is unanimous consent. The motion has to be in order before it can be put. However, I am prepared to give the hon. member the benefit of the doubt and ask whether there is unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.