

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, November 17, 1975

The House met at 2 p.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### POST OFFICE

PROPOSED VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT ON GOVERNMENT OFFER TO SETTLE STRIKE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion of pressing and urgent necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. I have given the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) and the government House leader notice of this motion. As Canadians have now been denied postal service for 28 days and as the CUPW has denied its membership the right to a secret vote on the government's final wage offer, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke):

That this House urges the Public Service Staff Relations Board to direct the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to take a poll of its membership by secret ballot on the government's final wage offer, and that such a vote be supervised by the Canadian Labour Congress.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The provisions of Standing Order 43 require the unanimous consent of the House for the presentation of this motion. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** There being unanimous consent, I shall put the motion. It is moved by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) and seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke):

That this House urges the Public Service Staff Relations Board to direct the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to take a poll of its membership by secret ballot on the government's final wage offer, and that such a vote be supervised by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Too late!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that when the motion was moved, because of the usual commotion at the commencement of proceedings Your Honour failed to hear any objection to this motion.

**An hon. Member:** No, no.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, could the question be put again?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is a most serious problem. If an hon. member alleges that he or others close to him withheld consent to the motion, and I missed that, it is a most serious situation. Previously, in such circumstance, the Chair has put the question a second time if it had been suggested that consent had been withheld. There is nothing dangerous about that precedent. When an hon. member has indicated that the Chair has missed a negative or dissenting vote cast either by that member or someone close to him, that has been sufficient for the Chair in the past. If this is the case, may I ask again if there is unanimous consent? Pursuant to Standing Order 43, the motion I just read can only be put with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** No.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### POST OFFICE

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—REPLY OF CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS TO SUGGESTION SECRET BALLOT BE TAKEN ON GOVERNMENT OFFER

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Postmaster General who last week indicated he had sent a communication to the CLC regarding a vote on the government's proposal. Has the Postmaster General received a reply from the Canadian Labour Congress indicating that it is preparing to encourage the union in question to hold a secret vote on the government's final offer?

● (1410)

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I recall last week replying to a telegram from the Canadian Labour Congress urging renewed bargaining and so on. I did reply, as the Leader of the Opposition states, asking the CLC to urge the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, who are members of the CLC, to hold a secret ballot to see whether the government's final offer was acceptable. I went further to suggest that the CLC supervise the vote. So far, I have not had any reply.