

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 18, 1971

The House met at 11 a.m.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

[Translation]

Claude Lajoie, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Trois-Rivières, introduced by the Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and the Hon. Jean Chrétien.

Yvon L'Heureux, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Chambly, introduced by the Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and the Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté.

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[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. HOWARD (OKANAGAN BOUNDARY)—FAILURE OF DIVISION BELLS TO RING IN WEST BLOCK

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Last night a number of votes were conducted in the House after ten o'clock. When I left my office at 10.15, having finished my work, I discovered that the votes were in progress. The reason I did not know prior to that was that the division bells in the area of the west block where my office is were not working. I had drawn this to the attention of the staff in the west block earlier in the day. I merely wish now to draw to the attention of Your Honour the potential seriousness of such a situation and I hope it will be corrected.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is obviously the victim of a conspiracy of silence and this includes the fact that he did not notify the Chair of his intention to raise this matter. In any event, the situation will be looked into and I am sure it will be corrected.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

TABLING OF STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSED CHARTER

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 41(2) I should like to table a statement of conclusions from the constitutional conference in Victoria and the proposed Canadian constitutional charter. I regret that these documents are not available to all members of the House but they will be distributed as quickly as possible during the day.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. member for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe has a report to table. With the consent of the House we will return to that item to allow him to table the report.

• (11:10 a.m.)

Mr. Peters: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: There is not consent. The hon. member for Timiskaming will not give unanimous consent.

Mr. Lang: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member rose at the right time but failed to be recognized in time to present his report.

Mr. Horner: Is the minister criticizing the Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the minister is not criticizing the Speaker. The Chair inadvertently overlooked the fact that the hon. member had risen. The only way we can go back to that item is by unanimous consent. The Chair must take the responsibility for not having recognized the hon. member. Perhaps some time later during the day, if the hon. member will stay around, there may be an opportunity to revert to that item.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chrétien: You will have to stick around, Arnold.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CHAIRMAN OF UNITED STATES FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND DEPUTY MINISTER

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 41 (2), I want to table, in both official languages, two letters, one dated May 21, 1971, and written by Mr. Dean Burch, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission of the United States, to the Deputy Minister of Communications of Canada, Mr. Allan E. Gotlieb, and the other, the latter's answer dated June 7, 1971. The letters deal with the orbital position of the satellites that will constitute the space element of the national telecommunications network of Telesat Canada. Part of this correspondence, that is the letter from the Chairman of the FFC, has already been published in the United States. I, therefore, deem it necessary to make public Canada's answer.