

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 10, 1980

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

CASE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG TO BE RAISED WITH SOVIET
DELEGATION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 43 on this important and widely recognized International Human Rights Day. I wish to draw the attention of this House to the plight of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who disappeared at the end of World War II after helping to save the lives of at least 20,000 Hungarian Jews. Mr. Wallenberg was taken into custody by the Soviets on January 17, 1945. Reports that he is still alive and being held in the Soviet gulag have come from various sources, most recently from Soviet Jews who have emigrated to the West. Since both the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan) and the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) have clearly stated their support for further investigation of Raoul Wallenberg's case, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald):

That the government give priority to raising the plight of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg with the Soviet delegation during the first session of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe being held in Madrid.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Does the House agree to the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

FISHERIES

CALL FOR PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) has announced the establishment of a \$4.2 million program to assist native fishermen on the west coast because of limited fishing time, a poor season, intense competition in the industry and other factors, and since non-native fishermen have also suffered economic hardship during the past fishing season, I move, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen):

That this House recognizes the severe economic hardship faced by many west coast fishermen this winter and therefore directs the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to seek advice immediately from his colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who has responded too expeditiously to this serious problem, in order that together they may devise a fair and equitable program of economic assistance for all deserving fishermen, whether they be native or non-native.

Madam Speaker: Presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE—MOTION UNDER
S.O. 43

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, in light of the fact that today is International Human Rights Day, since this Liberal government has refused to take any concrete action to settle the case of the 3,000 employees, mostly women, who are members of the general service component of PSAC, even though the government lost this case at the Human Rights Commission over six months ago, and since Treasury Board spokesman John Campbell has been quoted, in referring to the delay, as saying, "It's a sign that we don't want this case to become a dangerous precedent", and has further indicated that the government will not make a comprehensive proposal on this matter for several months, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That, in the spirit of International Human Rights Day, the government reverse its regressive and sexist position and establish a "precedent" that would not only accept the principle of equal pay for work of equal or comparable value, but would also demonstrate that the government is willing to become a positive influence in establishing human rights among its employees.