

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, October 31, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY OPERATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Given the latest disclosures of illegal activity by federal security services, and given the fact that the McDonald Commission lacks a clear mandate to inquire into the crucial matter of ministerial responsibility for those activities, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies):

That a special committee of this House be established to inquire into the exercise of ministerial responsibility for federal security operations; that the committee be chaired by a member of the opposition; that the committee have the power to subpoena testimony from all Privy Councillors who have held the portfolio of solicitor general since 1968 and from such other senior officials as the committee deems necessary; that the committee be provided with independent counsel and research assistance; and that the committee submit at least an interim report to this House by November 30 next.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The presentation of such a motion for debate requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE TO ACT ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 as well.

[Translation]

In view of the revelations made in the House last Friday in connection with the RCMP's activities in Quebec, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the House condemn the failure of the government to control effectively the activities of the RCMP. One of the results of such failure was the illegal

search conducted in the offices of a democratically established political party in Quebec, that is the Parti Québécois, on January 9, 1973; that it also condemn the government and more specifically the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for his implication in the cover-up, this following unavoidably from the fact that the Prime Minister failed to ask the RCMP how it had obtained the information on the Parti Québécois when he learned in 1974 that the RCMP was watching that party.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

[English]

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN MINISTERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT SECURITY SERVICE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. It is clearly essential that in order to maintain public confidence in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the fullest information be available to the House and to the country concerning the relationship of the former solicitor general, now the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Allmand); the former minister of justice, now the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang); and the Prime Minister's office with the security and intelligence services of the government. I believe my motion will be acceptable to everyone in the House who is interested in bringing out the whole truth. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander):

That notwithstanding any Standing Order or ruling of Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Minister of Transport be permitted to answer questions respecting the activities of the security and intelligence services of the government during the period when these ministers were responsible as solicitor general and minister of justice respectively.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Presentation of such a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.