

## MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

### AUDITOR GENERAL

#### DOWNGRADING OF POSITIONS OF SENIOR OFFICERS

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave under Standing Order 26 to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the action of the Treasury Board in downgrading the senior officer positions in the Auditor General's office as a result of which most of the 28 senior officers have individually lost \$2,400 per year since July 1, 1967, a period when most public servants were receiving raises. This sinister attack on the office of the Auditor General which impairs the efficiency of his important office ought to be debated forthwith.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Calgary North has filed a notice of his intention to propose a motion under Standing Order 26. I have given very serious consideration to the matter and have considered all the procedural aspects of the motion. The hon. member for Calgary North proposes that the business ordered for today be set aside so that the House may debate Treasury Board decision affecting the remuneration of senior officials of the Auditor General's office, going back to July 1, 1967. The hon. member charges that the efficiency of the Auditor General's office has been impaired as a result of such action by Treasury Board.

Hon. members know the criteria which must guide the Chair in relation to Standing Order 26. I must determine whether the subject matter sought to be discussed can be termed an emergency. The word "emergency" used in relation to Standing Order 26 has always been interpreted to refer to a sudden occurrence, a newly arising situation which, because of that aspect, requires the immediate, urgent consideration of the House.

Is this requirement met in the circumstances indicated by the hon. member for Calgary North? This is obviously a very important matter and one which is or should be of interest and concern to all hon. members; and there is an aspect of immediacy in the sense that relevant evidence has just been heard by the public accounts committee. On the other hand, the situation referred to in the proposed motion goes back to July, 1967.

It is hardly necessary to remind the House that the Auditor General's relation to the government has been brought to the attention of the House on a number of occasions in recent months. In particular, the matter was raised on April 6 last by the hon. member for Peace River, also under the provisions of Standing Order 26. On April 13 the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands again brought the situation to the attention of the House, at that time by way of a question of privilege. The hon. member's motion is based on a submission that there was an attempt to "harass and intimidate the Auditor General".

### Motions for Papers

The Chair also has to take into account the possibility that the matter might be debated in other circumstances. The House has before it at the present time the bill that was referred to a moment ago by the hon. member for Peace River. The Auditor General's report is now before the Public Accounts Committee and it can be reasonably assumed by the Chair that in due course the committee's report will be debated in the House. What is perhaps even more relevant is that the budget debate will take place very soon. While I agree the matter is an important and urgent one which hon. members may wish to debate, for all these reasons I suggest such a debate should take place as part of a discussion on a substantive motion rather than within the somewhat limited framework provided under Standing Order 26.

• (2:50 p.m.)

## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[Translation]

**Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, notices of motions Nos. 46 and 111 are acceptable to the government subject to the usual reservations concerning confidential documents and to the authorization of the government concerned.

[English]

### OIL AND GAS LAND REGULATIONS IN YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

#### Motion No. 46—Mr. Orlikow:

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all representations received by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development regarding the revision of Canada's Oil and Gas Land Regulations in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Motion agreed to.

### CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO A NATIONAL PARK IN THE SHIP HARBOUR AREA, HALIFAX COUNTY

#### Motion No. 111—Mr. Forrestall:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all proposed plans, together with descriptions and correspondence between the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia with respect to a National Park in the Ship Harbour area of Halifax County.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jerome:** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notices of motions Nos. 8, 13, 23, 31, 55, 89, 101 and 102?