

Madam Speaker: I might ask for consent again, but I did hear a "no". Is there unanimous consent for the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to table a petition?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Nielsen: Madame Speaker, I know nothing of this. It takes me completely by surprise. It will not hurt to delay the matter for three hours. If the hon. member can tell me what he wants to do and show me what he has, then I might be able to give unanimous consent at eight o'clock.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, that is fine. I can even delay it until tomorrow if I have to do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, as listed on today's Order Paper, namely, notices of motions, papers, private bills and public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY EXPORT AUTHORITY

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

On the Order: Private Members' Public Bills:

May 2, 1980—Second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works of Bill C-290, an act to provide for the establishment of a Nuclear Electricity Export Authority.—*Mr. Watson.*

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I seek the unanimous consent of the House to withdraw Bill C-290, which stands in my name on the Order Paper. It was the intention of the proposed bill to encourage the export of blocks of electricity from Canada to the United States. After further study, it seems clear to me that the establishment of a federal authority for this purpose would be an unwarranted interference by Parliament into a provincial jurisdiction. Therefore, it would be counterproductive.

I will seek to advance my objective by other means.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Does the hon. member for Châteauguay (Mr. Watson) have unanimous consent to withdraw his bill and discharge the order?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and bill withdrawn.

Application of Federal Laws

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

Motions Nos. 22, 5, 4, 28, 35 and 33 allowed to stand by unanimous consent.

APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAWS IN VARIOUS PROVINCIAL COURTS

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil) moved:

That an order of the House do issue for copies of all correspondence, minutes of meetings, studies and other communications of the Department of Justice relating to the comparison of the application by the various provincial courts of federal laws.

He said: It was approximately four weeks ago, on March 2, 1981, that I had the opportunity to speak in this House on another motion dealing with the equality of minority language rights. I was happy to speak at that time because the motion dealt with a subject I considered of interest in the midst of this constitutional debate. In fact, I had the opportunity on that occasion to speak for approximately 20 minutes on a subject in which I have taken a considerable interest. When it became apparent that this motion for the production of papers would probably be called this afternoon, I was pleased because it, too, is a matter of some concern in this current constitutional debate.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development (Mr. Irwin), in reply to the motion, as reported in *Hansard* for February 18, 1981 at page 7433 said:

—the Department of Justice has none of the documents which the member is asking for in motion No. 32.

First, may I outline why I asked for these documents and why I believe that some documents must exist somewhere in the Department of Justice. It is true that when we are dealing with variations in the application of justice in the provinces we do have certain acts and bills in which regional variations are recorded. I will cite one or two examples. The first one concerns Section 150 of the Prisons and Reformatories Act. This is a federal act. Where a person under 22 has been convicted in British Columbia of an offence punishable by imprisonment for at least three months, that person may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not less than three months; but he can be imprisoned for a period up to two years minus one day. Once sentenced under these circumstances, instead of going to jail the individuals are sent to certain correctional institutions.

In a proclamation under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, to give another example, a "child" means in the province of Alberta a girl under the age of 18 and a boy under the age of 16. Thus, there are provisions for treating people differently in different provinces. These variations have been ruled upon as not being discriminatory.

One can then ask if the constitutional proposal, when adopted as the Constitution of our land, will have any effect on these