

Environmental Affairs

[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRSPROPOSED REFERENCE OF THREATENED STRIKE BY NURSES
TO STANDING COMMITTEE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS
CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that registered nurses at all federal government veterans' hospitals have rejected the contract offer from the Treasury Board, and in view of the fact that this could lead to nation-wide strike action as early as next month, resulting in our military veterans receiving entirely inadequate care in these institutions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Portage (Mr. Masniuk):

That this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs immediately to ensure that this strike situation does not come about.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that the motion being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 be debated?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There not being unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRSPROPOSED TABLING OF STUDIES RELATING TO TAR SANDS
DEVELOPMENT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO
MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of grave and serious concern to the Canadian people. In view of the grave implications for the environment because of the Syncrude development in the Peace-Athabasca Delta, because of the secretive and underhanded manner in which both the Alberta government and the Syncrude partners have approached the potential environmental problems of the tar sands and because the federal government has specific responsibility for air and water, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes):

That this House instruct the Minister of the Environment to table all documents and/or studies concerning the tar sands development as they relate to the environment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I listened carefully to the terms of the motion proposed by the hon. member. Not only do I have some difficulty about the element of urgency or immediate necessity, as opposed to perhaps other methods which might be used to produce these papers, but I did not even hear the hon. member use the terms set out in the rule. I understand he quite correctly described it as a matter of great interest to all Canadian people, but I did not hear the words "urgent and pressing necessity". If the hon. member used those words, I am mistaken. In the circumstances, I feel I cannot put the motion.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I know Your Honour may not have been listening very carefully—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Rodriguez: I did indeed use the word urgent. I said it was of urgent concern to all the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker: With the greatest respect—

Mr. Rodriguez: I said serious and grave.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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URBAN AFFAIRSSUGGESTED FEDERAL COST-SHARING PROGRAM FOR RAPID
TRANSIT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the belated acknowledgment by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that we have been propelled with unprecedented and unforeseen speed into the middle of an energy crisis, and his adoption last night of some gestures in the direction of energy conservation, and in view of the necessity, in the minister's words, of a permanent change in our consumption habits, and in view of the great saving in energy which would result from a structural shift in our urban transportation pattern from that oriented around the private auto to that developed around public transportation, and in view of the government's promises during the last election campaign and in the Speech from the Throne to undertake immediately additional steps to strengthen the effectiveness of urban transportation systems and improve commuter services, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert):

That the Minister of State for Urban Affairs introduce legislation immediately providing for a 50 per cent federal cost-sharing program for rapid transit and urban commuter services to municipalities.

I hope we can get beyond the gesture stage and do something which is real.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Since the motion has been advanced under the terms of Standing Order 43 and there is not unanimous consent, it cannot be put.