

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 21, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PROPOSED COMMITTEE STUDY OF POSSIBLE CHANGE IN
PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTING COMMISSIONER—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 43 on a matter of pressing and urgent necessity with reference to the possible appointment of a new commissioner for the RCMP. The RCMP first came into being as the North West Mounted Police in 1873. Its existence assured that the great plains, the wheat basket of the world, later to be known as Canada's source of gas and oil, could be developed and so allow Canada to become self-sufficient in energy and oil. The RCMP is a traditional police force.

Throughout the world the escalation of crime continues to be one of society's major problems. The RCMP, in full cooperation with all other police agencies in Canada, is committed to keeping crime in check and to reverse the trend of increased criminal behaviour. All the heads of the original North West Mounted Police, later known as the Royal North West Mounted Police and finally, in 1920, as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member's sentiments. However, he is permitted, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only to explain the urgency of the matter. Perhaps the hon. member could put that forward, and put his motion.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I am just coming to that. All the heads of the RCMP were chosen from within its ranks, with one exception at its beginning. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds):

That the question of changing the tradition and, indeed, the precedent of appointing a commissioner of the RCMP from other than the ranks of the force be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for study and report before a head is chosen from another source.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The presentation of such 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.

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY

REGRETTED FAILURE TO PASS BILL ESTABLISHING HOLIDAY—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, if the House will give its consent to the introduction of this motion under Standing Order 43, which I trust it will do, I believe it could be passed without debate. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House, on this special day, it being Monday, February 21, expresses its pride in Canada's heritage, regrets that the bill to establish national heritage day as a holiday has not been passed, and declares its confidence that the said bill will be passed during the present session of parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House for the presentation of such a motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP OF
UGANDA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask unanimous consent for the presentation of a motion under Standing Order 43 and do so because the provisions of the standing order require the matter to be one of urgent and pressing necessity. I raise this question in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Jamieson) because of the provisions of that Standing Order and because of evidence which came to light over the weekend concerning circumstances surrounding the death of the Archbishop of Uganda and two cabinet ministers in that country. Therefore, with the leave of the House I will ask for unanimous consent to move the following motion, seconded by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald):

● (1410)

That this House condemns the government of Uganda denying due process of law to its citizens and calls upon President Amin to permit an impartial inquiry by the Commonwealth or the United Nations into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the Archbishop of Uganda and two Ugandan cabinet ministers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!