

S.O. 29

SENATE AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Murray Dorin (Edmonton West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-245, an Act to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act (suspension).

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Dorin: Mr. Speaker, in the unfortunate event that you found it necessary to suspend someone from the House for a day or a longer period of time, the Bill would reduce his or her salary accordingly by deducting a day's pay or an appropriate amount for the time he or she were suspended. I think it would be appropriate in that, in such circumstances, obviously the person through his or her behaviour would not be adequately representing the people he or she were elected to represent.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 29

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—GOVERNMENT ADHERENCE

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 29, I ask leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the unparalleled circumstances surrounding the departure from Cabinet of the Hon. Member for Saint-Jean (Mr. Bissonnette), which has raised grave doubts in the public mind concerning the integrity of the Government's dealing with contractors and its adherence to conflict of interest standards.

I should like to cite sources which would lead Your Honour to be able to grant the request for an emergency debate. In doing so, I refer to a speech given by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) several months ago in which he said:

You will find no quasi-independent agencies in this Code that will allow the Government to shirk its responsibility by saying that the problem belongs to someone else... Instruments already exist which permit the Government to respond appropriately to such a requirement. But making use of these instruments will not relieve the Government of the responsibility to decide and to stand accountable before Parliament. The principles of responsible government and the supremacy of Parliament are respected and reinforced.

He went on to say:

[Translation]

As Prime Minister, my primary responsibility is to protect the public interest and implement legislation and policies, including policies on individual behaviour and conflict of interest. All this comes under the responsibility of the Prime Minister, who has a duty to act firmly and expeditiously in the national interest.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I see the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary rising on a point of order. I think, perhaps to save time, I can anticipate the point of order.

I have allowed the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) to go a little beyond the rule that debate is not appropriate at the presentation of an application such as the one which has been brought before the Chair. However, I assure the Hon. Member that the Chair has the point and is clearly of the opinion that it is an important matter.

As to whether it is appropriate under all the circumstances to order an emergency debate, that is a matter on which I would ask the Hon. Member to permit the Chair to defer its ruling until this afternoon.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 46 will be answered today.

[Text]

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SERVANTS AND CROWN CORPORATION EMPLOYEES

Question No. 46—**Mr. Scott (Victoria—Haliburton):**

1. What is the total number of public servants and Crown corporation employees employed in Canada and, in each case, how many are located in (a) the Ottawa region (b) each province?
2. How do these figures compare with June 1984?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): The tables below show employee counts at the end of June, 1984, and June, 1986. Federal Government Enterprises data are not available for the National Capital Region.

Federal Government Enterprises, Total Number of Employees in June, 1984 and June, 1986.

Geographic Location	Number of Employees	
	June 1984	June 1986
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,463	5,608
Prince Edward Island	994	916
Nova Scotia	6,041	6,142
New Brunswick	7,966	7,580
Quebec	58,906	57,145