

● (1412)

[English]

URBAN AFFAIRS**PROPOSAL CERTAIN MUNICIPALITY REDUCE TAXES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 is made because a town in Ontario has suggested in a resolution that the House of Commons should not be debating the topic it did yesterday. My motion is therefore made in the spirit of complete political friendliness. I therefore move:

That the said town fathers do their best to cut the town taxes by 50 per cent and we in the House of Commons will applaud their efforts.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**PROPOSED COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I am desirous of seeking the permission of the House to obtain unanimous consent under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to present a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That an all-party committee be set up forthwith to meet in camera with appropriate Cabinet ministers and staff to get to the bottom of alleged improprieties of the RCMP, the security service and the DND because there is public concern, first, that the image, decorum and performance and its traditions will be further destroyed; second, the public confidence in the RCMP, the DND and the national security service will continue to be in doubt and third, subversives and organized crime and their actions will continue to thrive and the lives and safety of innocent Canadians and the nation will be in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker: Such motion can be presented for debate only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if I might take a minute before beginning the question period to remind hon. members that a short time ago I had asked their co-operation and assistance in seeing to it that we try to share the question period in a proportionate way between participants on both sides of the House, from all regions and with several subjects of interest. This can be done only if hon. members are prepared to discipline themselves to a certain extent with respect first, to the shortness of questions and second, to the shortness of answers.

I have been quite lenient with respect to the length of questions, so it is difficult for me not to be lenient with answers and therefore I have perhaps been a little bit generous

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on both sides in allowing prolonged questions which are responded to by prolonged answers. The result has been, I think, a little unfair to backbenchers on both sides of the House who have not been able to participate greatly in the question period.

I know I am speaking on behalf of all members of the House, not simply the Chair, in saying this because I know this concern is shared by everyone in the House. Therefore, perhaps we might begin by disciplining ourselves again to keep both the questions and the answers as short as possible today.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING WITH ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ROLE OF ITALIMPIANTI IN SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO ARGENTINA**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In putting the question to him I hope you will permit me to say that on the day when the Prime Minister of Italy is arriving in Canada I would hope that at a more appropriate time members on both sides of the House would join with the Secretary of State and the government in welcoming him on his four-day official visit.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: In saying that, may I point out to the minister that the government of Italy has immense equity and financial stake in the contracting firm of Italimpianti, the partner of AECL in the nuclear reactor sale to Argentina and, I have been told by Italimpianti individuals, has authority over senior personnel of Italimpianti including Mr. Lucien Secouri, general manager of Italimpianti who knows where our Canadian payoff moneys went but who will not divulge that information to either a committee of the House of Commons or the RCMP.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is hardly an exemplary start. I wonder if the hon. member would put his question.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I was just indicating to my colleagues that you would start this new policy on the day I had the initial question.

● (1417)

My question to the minister is simply this, and it is a most serious one: has the government put on the agenda of its discussions with the Italian Prime Minister this subject to elicit the help and support of the Italian government which, if it was forthcoming in this matter, would give us some information which has not been forthcoming in the past?