

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 24, 1972

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1110)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON USHER REPORT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43, the subject matter of which has to do with the derogatory statements made of and concerning a professional public servant which, unless challenged, will be a precedent, making public servants defenceless and undermining the fundamental concept of ministerial responsibility and the traditional relationship between ministerial heads of departments and their employees, both professional and otherwise, of the civil service. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell):

That the subject matter of the public statements made by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development pertaining to the report entitled, "The Bankslanders: Economy and Ecology of a Frontier Trapping Community," and in particular the minister's disparaging references to the professional competence of Dr. Peter Usher, a geographer employed in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, or other appropriate committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. gentleman's motion is proposed to the House under the terms of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Turned down by the Liberals again.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.

HOUSING

LOW-INCOME HOUSING REPORT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to move a motion under Standing Order 43 arising out of the serious allegations about the operations of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in this week's leak and the need for hon. members to have the document in question before the tabling of the CMHC capital budget as well as its annual report. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That an order of this House be issued for a copy of a study prepared for the CMHC task force on low-income housing entitled "The Adequacy and Production of Low-Income Housing" by Melvin Charney in collaboration with Serge Carreau and Colin Davidson.

Mr. Speaker: This motion proposed under Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

On the order: Introduction of Bills.

Mr. Speaker: As has been indicated previously, some of the private members' public bills before us are questionable from the point of view of the Chair in relation to procedure. It is the feeling of the Chair that in some instances some of these bills might infringe on the financial initiative of the Crown. It is the feeling of the Chair that this is a very important rule, indeed, a paramount rule, and unless the House is prepared to recognize that the rule does not continue to exist an effort should be made by hon. members, by the House and certainly by the Chair on behalf of hon. members, to see that we do not change this long-established practice that bills, motions and resolutions which tend to infringe on the financial initiative of the Crown be not allowed to proceed unless they are preceded, of course, by a recommendation from His Excellency. This is basically and generally the objection I have to a number of these bills.

Out of the ten to which reference has already been made three might be allowed to proceed without argu-