

*Public Service Merit System*

propose to move, seconded by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave):

That this House, for the preservation of the morale of the public service and the rights of the bargaining agents and the employee organizations of the public service, and the supremacy of Parliament to interpret its own statutes, is of the opinion that the Prime Minister should forthwith publicly announce the government's policy relating to this matter and assure the House that the merit principle in the public service will be changed only by a law of this Parliament and not by any philosophy on the part of the Public Service Commission.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Fundy-Royal has proposed this motion under the terms of Standing Order 43. The motion can be put only with the consent of the House. Is there such consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

REFERENCE OF 1971 ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMISSION  
TO COMMITTEE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could make another try with respect to this matter. As the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) indicated, I gave notice earlier to the government House leader of a motion that I should like to make under Standing Order 43. I have left out of my motion any debate or argument; all I should like is to see this matter referred. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That the annual report of the Public Service Commission of Canada for 1971, tabled in the House of Commons yesterday by the Secretary of State, be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates for a study of the changes in the application of the merit system referred to therein.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre under the terms of Standing Order 43 requires unanimous consent. Is the hon. gentleman rising on a point of order?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in order to facilitate, if possible, what I believe we all want, which is to have the matter studied by a committee. Speaking for myself, I would agree that this motion be put and accepted without debate if the last part were deleted; it seems to me to prejudge slightly the issue that will be examined by the committee. I refer to that part that makes reference to "changes in the application of the merit system referred to therein". If that were removed I could accept the motion.\*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, while I would rather have the entire motion put, if the first part were put it would still include everything contained in the report and that covers the part about which we are concerned. For the sake of getting this matter dealt with today, I would agree to terminate the motion after the words "miscellaneous estimates".

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Blair:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think it is extremely important at this time to be precise, clear and unambiguous in the instructions that we give the committee. I have a vivid recollection of what happened last year when important matters pertaining to the public service were referred to the miscellaneous estimates committee, matters involving, among other things, the question of appointments, promotions and the application of the merit system. My recollection is very vivid indeed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member rose on a point of order and he will appreciate that a motion has now been proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. It seems to me that essentially the hon. member is debating the terms of the motion. If he is not satisfied with the terms of the motion, I think his recourse is to vote against it, not debate it.

**Mr. Blair:** Then may I rephrase my point of order and ask for an assurance from the House that this committee will not in any way be inhibited, as was the committee last year, in reporting on the matters referred to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is hardly a point of order.

**Mr. Hees:** Who was it who inhibited the committee last time?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not think the Standing Order provides for what the hon. member is suggesting. The motion now proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is the following:

That the annual report of the Public Service Commission of Canada for 1971, tabled in the House of Commons yesterday by the Secretary of State, be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

This motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe there is unanimous consent. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

\* \* \*

• (1430)

[Translation]

**PENSIONS**

QUEBEC—INCREASE IN COST OF BOARD FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO  
MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like, under Standing Order 43, to propose a motion on an urgent matter.