

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 18, 1975

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER DURING DEBATE ON NUCLEAR POLICY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 relating to a matter that some of us regard as very urgent and very serious. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

That this House regrets the fact that yesterday, June 17, when the question of nuclear proliferation and Canada's role in the exportation of nuclear material and equipment was under debate, the Prime Minister not only failed to be present for any portion of that debate or to take part therein, but chose instead to make a speech outside of the House, in Ottawa, in which he completely ignored the views being expressed in parliament, and this House therefore expresses its resentment against this contempt of parliament by the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The motion is proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 and therefore requires the unanimous consent of the House before it can be presented or debated. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO SAFEGUARD STATUS OF INDIAN WOMAN MARRYING A NON-INDIAN—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 43, I request the unanimous consent of the House to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and immediate necessity.

Considering that about sixty women from the Caughnawaga Indian Reserve are faced with expulsion next July 5 for having committed the "sin" of marrying a white man; considering the flagrant discrimination against women contained in the Indian Act which states that an Indian woman who marries a non-Indian loses her Indian status; considering also that the Indian Act is contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which has been

endorsed by Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House request the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) to take the necessary steps so that Section 12 of the Indian Act, which provides for the expulsion of Indian women married to white men, be amended as soon as possible.

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

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent, so the motion cannot be submitted.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE PROPER TREATMENT OF DR. MORGENTALER—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice relating to the widespread concern about the reported treatment of Dr. Morgentaler. Can the minister tell the House what steps he has taken that might put to rest these fears and provide assurances to everyone that this inmate is receiving proper and decent treatment in the Waterloo minimum security prison, which I appreciate is not a federal but a provincial institution. I am sure the minister will agree that this has nothing to do with whether one is pro or contra abortion.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition has, in effect, answered his question himself. The minister of justice of the province will, I am sure, have had these various matters brought to his attention as well, and he would be the appropriate responsible official.

● (1410)

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Quebec minister of justice has not succeeded in allaying these concerns, is the Minister of Justice considering asking the Quebec minister of justice whether he will set up an inquiry conducted by an individual with the stature and respect necessary and with authority to report to the public?