

As I have had a little bit of experience in doing that for New Brunswick and the State of Maine, I was invited to attend. I listened to Premier Richard Hatfield, who I do not think called the member for Kenora-Rainy River either to see whether he could appear, and I thought with great respect to Premier Hatfield he covered the issue very well. However, should the Senate feel there is something more I could say about this particular issue I would be glad to go again.

There are many precedents for this. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien), for example, when he was the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development invited many members of parliament to initiate action before the commissions having to do with national parks development plans. It was at the minister's own invitation that members of parliament appeared before commissions in various parts of the country, giving their points of view, without in any way being inhibited by any strange rule.

I really thought today that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) got a little bit mixed. With great respect to him, he has well-known views about the Senate, but they have nothing to do with members of parliament using whatever avenue is at their disposal. The CRTC, a non-elected group, often receives representations, I would hope, from members of parliament. I have appeared before the CRTC asking for improved television in northeastern New Brunswick, for example, and there was no thought at all about infringing the rules of this parliament. I agree with the hon. member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) that this involves using whatever avenues exist, be they the Senate, the CRTC, boards or commissions or, strangely enough, once in awhile this very Chamber in which we are debating this issue today.

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INFORMATION

PROPOSED COMMITTEE STUDY OF EXPENDITURES ON INFORMATION—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, because the 28 per cent increase in federal government expenditures in one year demands urgent action by parliament to control spending, and because one of the most outlandish expenditures is the amount spent on maintaining 863 information officers, plus the money spent on contracts with freelance speech writers, public relations consultants and advertising agencies, I move under Standing Order 43, seconded by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski):

That the whole subject of government expenditures on information be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, and that this committee be instructed to report to parliament on what is the total amount of such expenditures, since without this over-view there will be no way of controlling profligate promotion.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is presented pursuant to Standing Order 43 and requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Conflict of Interest

POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF MAIL BY SETTING STRIKE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, I rise to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, namely the fact that business establishments across Canada are suffering due to curtailment of the postal service, in particular small businesses, the backbone of our economy, which depend wholly on regular mail delivery, and their very existence is now being jeopardized by postal walkouts. For the sake of our economy, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale):

That the government, through the President of the Treasury Board and/or the Postmaster General, request the post office members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada to begin immediately and continue delivery of all business mail, or force the return of the over-all mail delivery by introducing back to work legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The motion being presented pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REQUEST FOR GUIDELINES CONCERNING GIFTS TO PRIME MINISTER, CABINET MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek leave of the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise to propose a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 arising from a statement by a member of the staff in the Prime Minister's office early in January to the effect that guidelines would be issued in respect of possible conflicts of interest by the acceptance of gifts before the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) left on his European trip.

An hon. Member: What is his name?

Mr. Cossitt: I wish I knew his name, but the Prime Minister's staff has always hidden behind anonymity.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cossitt: I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers):

That the House requests the Prime Minister and the government to make public in this House, as promised before the Prime Minister leaves this week on his European trip, conflict of interest guidelines in regard to gifts received by, or offered to, the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and their wives.