

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 24, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Second report of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections—Mr. Laflamme.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

TABLING OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1971

Hon. P. M. Mahoney (Minister of State): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 61 of the Financial Administration Act, and on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I should like to table copies in both official languages of the report of the Auditor General to the House of Commons for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971.

The Auditor General has asked me to extend his apologies to the House for the lateness of this report which is due to circumstances of which the House is aware.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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IMMIGRATION

ADMISSION TO CANADA OF PERSHING GERVAIS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I am looking vainly for an Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker; I think I see one opposite me now. In any event, I have a motion to propose under Standing Order 43. The urgent and pressing circumstances involved the alleged extraordinary use by the Canadian government of immigration regulations to arrange for one Pershing Gervais, at the instance of the United States government, to use Canada as a place of refuge after having charged Jim Garrison, former New Orleans district attorney, with involvement in a pinball racket. My motion, if I am allowed to put it, is as follows:

That this House urges the government to immediately make a full inquiry into the circumstances of admission into Canada of Pershing Gervais, alias Paul Mason, and report to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Peace River. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ALLEGED MISUSE OF INCENTIVE GRANTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask unanimous consent of the House to propose a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. This matter arises out of an independent study, presented to the Standing Committee on Regional Development yesterday, which shows that 11 out of 18 companies which received total commitments of \$34 million in public funds under the Regional Development Incentives Act made no investment or location decisions because of the money but just reaped windfall gains. With consent, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

• (1410)

That this House resolves that the government should immediately appoint an independent authority to investigate the performance records of companies which have received or may receive grants under the Regional Development Incentives Act at the discretion of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and to make recommendations with respect to the continuance or repudiation of each such commitment and, where justified, the recovery of public moneys and such further and other recommendations as the authority may consider proper.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion is proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43 and 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.