

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 26, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

REVIEW BY STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Given that the latest Gallup Poll indicates a majority of Canadians support the return of capital punishment, and given that criminal activity is often compounded by the use of firearms, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis):

That this House endorse the resolution recently passed by the regional municipality of Niagara and urge the Solicitor General to introduce legislation immediately whereby the minimum sentence for anyone convicted of a criminal act while carrying a firearm would be 20 years, and further that the death penalty be invoked if a police officer is killed in the line of duty, and that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for more study.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

FUNDING FOR ARENA IN ST. WALBURG, SASK.—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. I have been contacted by a firm in St. Boniface, Manitoba, regarding serious inconsistencies involved in the awarding of a contract to build an arena at St. Walburg, Saskatchewan. The contract, awarded by the Saskatchewan government under unorthodox practices, did not go to the lowest bidder, Western Steel Span Buildings Ltd. of St. Boniface. As this contract involved federal government funding, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor):

That the minister responsible for CMHC withhold all federal funding for this project until the minister has completed a full investigation into the awarding of this contract.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE CONSTITUTION

SUPREME COURT RULING—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, I rise to propose a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43.

In view of the fact that many prominent Canadians, most recently the New Democratic Premier of Saskatchewan, have publicly stated that it would be improper for a joint resolution to be sent to the Parliament of the United Kingdom if the resolution was before the Supreme Court of Canada, and in view of the fact that the Supreme Court of Canada is seized with the Manitoba appeal, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That this House not act upon the joint resolution until the Supreme Court has had an opportunity to rule on its constitutionality and legality.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF BILL C-48—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to raise an issue of urgent and pressing necessity.

On March 19, 1981, representatives of the Yukon and Northwest Territories' governments, the Committee for Original People's Entitlement, the Dene Nation, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Council for Yukon Indians, and the Northwest Territories Metis Association met, and in an historic unanimous decision opposed Bill C-48, the Oil and Gas Act, because the legislation has totally ignored the issues related to aborigi-