

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

**Mr. Bell:** The "no" was on the government side. Let that be recorded in *Hansard*.

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### COMMUNICATIONS

#### BELL CANADA RATE INCREASES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move a motion under Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Since the motion speaks for itself I do not think I need take any time to explain it. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House is of the opinion that the government should use the powers it has under section 64(1) of the National Transportation Act to rescind immediately the decision of the Canadian Transport Commission granting a rate increase to Bell Canada since such increase is not justified and is really a tax on the consumers by the corporation to provide it with interest-free capital for expansion.

[Translation]

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

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Since there is not unanimous consent, the hon. member's motion cannot be put.

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[English]

### AGRICULTURE

#### REFERENCE OF CERTAIN ANNUAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS OF CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD TO STANDING COMMITTEE

On the order: Government notices of motions:

May 31, 1972—The President of the Privy Council: That the annual and supplementary reports of the Canadian Wheat Board for the years 1968-69 and 1969-70 and the annual report for the year 1970-71 be referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21 this government notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the House.

25316—53½

### Inquiries of the Ministry

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### REPORTED REFERENCE BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TO SOME EMPLOYEES AS BEING CORRUPTIBLE SLOBS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister concerning comments attributed in the press to the chairman of the Public Service Commission and the alleged reference by the chairman to members of the public service as "corruptible slobs". Will the Acting Prime Minister say whether he has made any inquiries or checked into these comments in order to ascertain whether Mr. Carson has any explanation?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might answer that question. The alleged remark apparently occurred during the course of a speech made to members of the personnel association yesterday. I understand Mr. Carson has protested to the editor of the newspaper that carried the report and has provided an explanation of the context in which certain words were used. A motion has just been made to refer the subject matter of this particular speech to the committee. It is my understanding that Mr. Carson will appear as a witness before this committee shortly and perhaps that occasion might be used to clarify this matter.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the fact that this is quite a different subject matter from the annual report of the commission which was referred to the committee yesterday, may I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether it is not the view of the government that an alleged statement of this sort is sufficiently serious that the government, in this case perhaps the President of the Treasury Board, ought to conduct an inquiry to satisfy itself concerning the nature of these remarks in view of their effect upon the public service and its morale?

• (1140)

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. gentleman that the chairman of the Public Service Commission should have an opportunity to explain the circumstances about which the report has arisen. Hopefully this could be done on the occasion of his appearance before the committee.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Can we, therefore, be assured that the terms of reference which were agreed to yesterday by the House in regard to the Public Service Commission's annual report are sufficiently broad to permit us to question the chairman on the remarks he has made about corruptible slobs?

**Mr. Drury:** I do not want to speak for the chairman of the committee, but I will undertake to have a word with him to make sure that the assumption the hon. gentleman has just made is in fact verified.