

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 19, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES OF MEMBERS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to propose under the provisions of Standing Order 43, the urgent and pressing circumstances of which have been indicated by certain recent events and certain decisions in this country and other countries. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker):

That a special committee of the House, to consist of Mr. Speaker and seven other members, be appointed to review the rights and immunities of members of the House of Commons, to examine the procedures by which such matters are dealt with by the House, and to report on any changes it may be desirable to make; and

That the said special committee have all the powers given to standing committees by the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 43 the unanimous consent of the House is required to put this motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), seconded by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), moves:

That a special committee of the House, to consist of Mr. Speaker and seven other members, be appointed to review the rights and immunities of members of the House of Commons, to examine the procedures by which such matters are dealt with by the House, and to report on any changes it may be desirable to make; and

That the said special committee have all the powers given to standing committees by the Standing Orders.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO OPERATIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I request unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an urgent matter, namely the proposed increase in power rates in the

Northwest Territories and Yukon. In view of the fact that these proposals are causing considerable debate among residents of the two territories; in view of the fact that this debate is severely limited by lack of adequate information about NCPC's operations; and in view of the fact that the government's only reaction to this widespread public concern has been to institute an in-house inquiry; I move, seconded by the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That a full and public inquiry be conducted into the entire operation of the Northern Canada Power Commission in the Yukon and Northwest Territories under the supervision of either a supreme court judge or a public utilities board from one of the provinces. And further, that the findings of this inquiry be placed before the legislative assemblies of the two territories for approval, adoption or otherwise to ensure fullest possible public participation.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43 this motion cannot be presented without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

SUGGESTION BRITISH PARLIAMENT BE INFORMED CONTROL OF CONSTITUTION LIES WITH PARLIAMENT OF CANADA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an urgent matter.

Considering that Canada is an independent and sovereign country, that most of its citizens do not wish to maintain our constitutional bonds with Britain, and that this situation can no longer be tolerated, so as to solve the problem of the repatriation of the Canadian constitution, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That a unanimous resolution of this House be sent to the Parliament of Westminster advising it that from now on the Canadian constitution will not in any way come under British legislation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.