

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 14, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

First report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Kaplan.

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

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALLEGED WIRETAPPING AND UNAUTHORIZED OPENING OF MAIL TO MEMBERS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 43—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pringle: —to propose a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. Last week, over the weekend and, indeed, as late as yesterday there have been suggestions and claims that the telephones of some members of parliament have been tapped and that mail addressed to some members has been opened without their authorization. These claims cannot help but cause suspicion in the minds of the general public and therefore can hinder members in performing their duties. It is most important that this matter be investigated—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pringle: —so that members can carry out their work without any doubts or suspicions about security.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a motion he should put it to the House now without argument.

Mr. Pringle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am only taking my lead from my friends in the opposition. Therefore I ask leave of the House to move, and I do move, seconded by the hon. member for Thunder Bay (Mr. Penner):

That the allegations concerning wiretapping and opening of mail of members of this House be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This motion is made under the terms of Standing Order 43. It can be put to the House only if there is unanimous agreement.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I will therefore put the motion. Mr. Pringle, seconded by Mr. Penner, moves:

That the allegations concerning wiretapping and opening of mail of members of the House be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges, and Elections.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Pringle) agreed to.

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TRANSPORT

IMPACT OF FREIGHT RATES ON MARITIMES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask leave of the House to move a motion on a subject of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the government's announced intention of reducing regional disparities in Canada, and in view of the fact that increases in freight rates have the effect of further weakening the competitive position of Maritime industries vis-à-vis the rest of Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrester):

That this House instructs the Minister of Transport to appear before the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications at the earliest possible date to discuss plans for an immediate reduction in the freight rates which have such a deleterious effect on the Maritime economy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: This motion is also proposed to the House 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 unanimity and the motion therefore cannot be put.

Mr. Bell: What have they got to hide over there that they cannot give us a break?