

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 9, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ENERGY

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION OF NORTHERN PIPELINE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 and concerning the right of the Parliament of Canada to participate in decisions relating to a northern pipeline. If there is unanimous consent I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker):

That a special committee of the House of Commons be appointed to consider and report upon proposals for the construction of a northern pipeline; that 15 members, to be named at a later date, be selected to serve on the committee; that the committee be authorized to conduct its discussions in such a way as to maximize public participation and understanding of the issues at stake; that the Berger commission report be referred immediately to the committee and that all subsequent reports on pipeline construction shall stand referred immediately to the committee upon tabling in the House; and that the said committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses; to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable.

Mr. Speaker: The presentation for debate of any motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 can be done only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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INCOME TAX

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE OPTION AS TO METHOD OF DEDUCTIONS AT SOURCE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to request the unanimous consent of the House to my motion. Given the view expressed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) in a letter dated as long ago as November, 1976 that the problem of tax deductions at source for public servants based on their place of work, rather than on their place of residence, rested on the income tax regulations, and given the increasingly heavy burden that the levying of this tax is placing on public

servants living in Ontario but finding Quebec to be their place of work, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker):

That this government be instructed by this House to amend the income tax regulations in such a way as to permit public servants to express an option with respect to the way income tax deductions may be made at source.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for debate pursuant to Standing Order 43 must be done only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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HEALTH

REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY OF MERCURY POLLUTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I move under the provisions of Standing Order 43 a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that the recent book by Warner Troyer entitled "No Safe Place" confirms the seriousness of mercury poisoning in Canada, in view of the fact the House has been repeatedly misled about the number of cases of Minamata disease, and in view of the fact there are allegations that the federal health department has suppressed information regarding the seriousness of mercury health hazards, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil):

● (1410)

That the federal government immediately commission an independent comprehensive epidemiological study on mercury pollution, and the entire matter be referred to the appropriate standing committee of the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 43, presentation of such a motion for debate can be done only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.