

S.O. 43

CANADA POST CORPORATION

BAN ON USE OF PRIVATE COMPANY SERVICES

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Madam Speaker, I rise today to point out another example of misconduct by the Post Office. It has come to my attention that the chief executive officer of the Corporation has warned dissatisfied users they cannot opt out of postal service and engage the services of private companies which provide better service at lower cost. This is a further threat to the free enterprise system. The philosophy of Canada Post is a monopolistic one, one which states in effect: "If we cannot compete with private companies, let's make it illegal for them to provide the same services." Therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor):

That, if the Post Office cannot provide better service than private enterprises, it at least permit such companies to pursue their legitimate business aspirations.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

* * *

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

APPLICATION TO SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, apropos of a point of order which you thought was appropriate yesterday, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of a serious infringement of the Canadian Charter of Rights. Last week Regina Alderman, Harry Van Mulligan, was told by the Government of Saskatchewan either to move to a new post in Prince Albert, or lose his job. Mr. Van Mulligan had earlier spoken out in opposition to the provincial Government's restraint program, while carrying out his elected duties at Regina City Council.

The Premier has since declared that all Government employees who also serve their communities on school boards, hospital boards, and even on church boards, must carefully weigh the consequences of freely speaking their minds in public. I therefore move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo):

That this House condemn the curtailment of basic civil and political liberties of Saskatchewan public servants by the Government of Saskatchewan.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

MARINE TRANSPORT

COAST GUARD REPORT ON VULNERABILITY OF BRIDGES

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, a report entitled the "Vulnerability of Bridges in Canadian Waters" made by the Canadian Coast Guard states that the A. Murray MacKay Bridge and The Angus L. MacDonald Bridge, which span Halifax Harbour, as well as bridges spanning the St. Lawrence River and Vancouver Harbour have the highest risk of damage in Canada based on pier vulnerability and volume of marine traffic. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall):

That this House direct the Minister of Transport to act immediately on the recommendation of the Canadian Coast Guard to protect the two bridges spanning Halifax Harbour from damage or destruction, resulting from a marine accident by co-operating with the Province of Nova Scotia and other agencies to construct the necessary safeguards.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY

CASE OF CANADIAN PROFESSOR—ROLE OF FORMER SOVIET KGB COLONEL

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It pertains to the spy, Hambleton. We know that Col. Rudolph Herrmann was a colonel of the KGB, that he operated in Canada between 1959 and 1968, and that he subsequently moved to New York State but returned to Canada on a regular basis and had continuous contact with Hambleton.

In determining whether he was going to lay charges with respect to prosecuting Hambleton in circumstances where the Americans were willing to make Herrmann available for interrogation, for full debriefing, and to give a sworn statement as to all the activities of Hambleton, how could the Minister's predecessor, or the Minister himself, have neglected his duty in ascertaining all of the information that this particular spy was capable of giving to Canada, especially when, in the circumstances, he was the one who tipped Canada off on the identity of Hambleton?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend has a mistaken notice of the facts. My philosophy has been to lay out all the facts it is possible to bring forward. I have stated that there was no evidence before the Attorney General in the spring of 1980 concerning any transmission of NATO secrets,