

*Non-Confidence in Deputy Speaker*

convention for the high seas fisheries of the north Pacific ocean, (2) the international convention for the high seas fisheries of the north Pacific ocean, and (3) the last annual report of the international north Pacific fisheries commission and, in particular, to examine and consider the possible harmful effects which such recommendations may have upon Canada's fisheries and with authority to report its findings and recommendations from time to time."

This motion is seconded by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Mather).

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that this is a substantive motion and therefore in my opinion it requires notice. Under the circumstances it could not be acceptable at this time without the appropriate notice.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman asked for unanimous consent, and we would be glad to accord it.

Mr. Speaker: If there is unanimous consent, of course, it can be moved. Is there unanimous consent in this regard?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: I regret that there is a dissenting voice.

Obviously, this is the normal way in which to handle these matters. It was not necessary for a member of the house to be so familiar with the rules that he drew the attention of the house to the fact unanimous consent was needed. The Speaker has a responsibility, and I think it is a responsibility he should exercise. I was shocked at some of the statements I heard today and yesterday to the effect that this is a repetition of something that has happened several times, and that the government had a responsibility in each of those cases. I doubt that this is true, and I certainly hope it is not true. However, I believe that the government should be censured, in fact all members of the house should be censured. I believe the situation resulted from haste, and I believe that if the Speaker has any responsibility it is a responsibility that we give him and that we expect him to exercise.

I believe, too, that the Speaker must be aware of the temper of the house and of any minority opinion in the house, particularly when that minority opinion has been expressed. In a democracy, minorities are almost as important as majorities. Considerations must be given to these minorities and, in my opinion, the Speaker has the responsibility to see that this happens. Since I have been in this house I have found Speakers, in the main, to be fairly unbiased and they have made decisions taking into consideration the will of the minority as well as of the majority. I do not believe the rules should be used, or the lack of familiarity with the rules by hon. members should offer the occasion for doing things in a manner that is not in keeping with the dignity of this house.

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I believe this was done. I believe in using the expression "with unanimous consent" in the case which I have quoted, where the hon. member for Skeena used it, he did it with the view of trying to do something he was not able to do in any other way. Of course he may disagree with that, but I think it was done in this way because as a private member he would not have the right to do this without a proper motion. I think the Prime Minister did it in this case with exactly the same view, and did it because there was the necessity to get consent.

I believe the Deputy Speaker was the victim in this case, because of the fact there was an indication that there would be consultation between the parties in the house so that unanimous consent could be given to the introduction of a resolution without the motion. Therefore I am in favour of the resolution we now have before us, except for the fact that it lays all the blame on the Deputy Speaker. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Timmins (Mr. Martin):

That the last line of the resolution be amended by striking out all the words following the words, "be it resolved that" and substituting the words, "this house regrets that it did not take action to uphold the rules of parliament to preserve the rights of each member."

This will place on the record the fact that this house has seen fit to censure itself, and would give direction to the Chair and the officers at the table that we wish them to enforce the rights we believe we enjoy in being members of the house, under the democratic principles established over the years by the rules and procedures of the house. It will be taken as a censure of each and every member of the house, and particularly of those who were not here to participate at that time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York-Humber. I may point out that I do not want to slow up the debate, but if the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) would allow me, I wish to consider his amendment while the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) is making his remarks.

Mr. Peters: If Your Honour finds that the amendment is not in order, I would like publicly to make the request that the mover and seconder of the motion implement the amendment, with consent, as part of their original motion.

Mr. Speaker: Again I would like to deal with that in a few minutes.

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, as one of those members of the house who was present on Friday evening