

alternative policies and thereby have a set of policies in the event that our persuasion of the Europeans does not work.

It is also very obvious that the Europeans are worried about the growth of international corporations and are making very determined efforts by combining with each other to ensure they have some control over the future of their countries and their economies. This is not going to go away and will not succumb to our blandishments. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, while welcoming the minister back I would hope he will take an early opportunity to tell us not only the kind of representations he has made to the countries of Europe but also what alternatives the government has in the event that we cannot get entry into the European Common Market. He should not fob us off by saying we are still trying because obviously our efforts are not meeting with success in that direction.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, like the colleagues who spoke before me, I welcome back the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp). I feel it might be well to consider posting a permanent welcome at the entrance of Parliament since during the past few months a procession of Canadian ministers, as also provincial premiers bound on somewhat different business, have been travelling abroad.

We note in the report of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as we did in a report presented earlier this week by another minister, the Canadian government's concern with the creation of a European Common Market. It would appear that the creation of this common market would be fatal to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the minister says that he urged the members of states and the EEC Commission to seriously consider the creation of mechanisms conducive to continuing consultations with Canada, as if we were telling member states of the common market to ask us permission to organize themselves and find ways and means to live better, and turn their industries, the agricultural potentialities and their trade with central Europe to their best account.

We cannot prevent the Europeans from improving their lot and in my view the organization of the economic community is by no means a catastrophe. This we find rather amazing and we should be able, thanks to our immense country and our hard-working countrymen, to do quite well for ourselves. We often hear that Canada is one of the most industrially developed countries in the world; therefore, we need not fear the commercial development that other countries are trying to achieve.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated that he also met His Holiness the Pope in Rome. I am happy that he deemed it advisable to meet this high international authority; I am convinced that this was beneficial to him and that relations with the Vatican should be multiplied. This would doubtless be helpful in seeking better international agreements, perhaps not in the commercial field, but in seeking world peace, which people desire, but which few are dedicated to attain.

### Public Service

• (2:40 p.m.)

[English]

### PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED PATRONAGE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move a motion under Standing Order 43 in light of the declaration made yesterday by Mr. Claude Edwards, President of the Public Service Alliance, to the effect that the hiring procedure by departments of government has resulted in increasing personal and bureaucratic patronage in the appointment of federal employees, contrary to the merit system.

I therefore move, with the consent of the House, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates investigate and report upon the hiring practices used by various departments of government in recruiting for the Public Service.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion proposed by the hon. member for St. John's West requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Since there is not unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put at this time.

I believe the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton seeks the unanimous consent of the House to return to the item, presenting reports, for the purpose of presenting a report. Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS

Seventh report of Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs—Mr. Cullen.

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

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### MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Victor Forget (Saint-Michel)** moved that the first report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, presented to the House on Tuesday, April 27, 1971, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.