

S.O. 43

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLLUTION OF OTTAWA RIVER—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Considering that certain psychic disturbances characterized by irritability, shyness, tremors, coarse, jerky movements of the lips, tongue and extremities and, finally, gross inco-ordination, can sometimes be caused by mercury poisoning, considering also that a federal-provincial study on pollution levels in the Ottawa River, not yet released but known to exist, is reported to reveal high levels of phosphorous and mercury, both seriously hazardous to health, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis):

That this House implores the minister for the environment, who admitted last April 19 in the House that he was aware of this particular report, to table the report forthwith so that residents on both sides of the river can understand the risks to their health and, in so doing, gather strong public support for all levels of government to intensify their efforts toward remedial action with better control to de-pollute the Ottawa River.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Under the terms of the Standing Order, such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1112)

COMMUNICATIONS

CRTC RULING ON USE OF TV CHANNELS IN SASKATCHEWAN—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of a conflict between licensed cable operators in the province of Saskatchewan and the owner of the cable hardware, namely, Saskatchewan Telecommunications, with respect to a ruling of the CRTC concerning the use of channels by a co-operative network in the province of Saskatchewan, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale):

That this House direct the Minister of Communications to make a statement on motions at the earliest moment with respect to the position taken by the government, and particularly by the minister, with respect to this very important matter to the people of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Mr. Speaker.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me that two vacancies have occurred in the representation, namely, F. Hugh Poulin, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Ottawa Centre, and John Gilbert, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Broadview, by resignation.

Accordingly, I have addressed my warrants to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of new writs of election for the said electoral districts.

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TRIBUTES TO LT. COL. DAVID V. CURRIE, V.C., ON
RETIREMENT AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members will have noticed that today, as has been the case on almost every day that the House has been in session since January of 1960, the mace was carried into the chamber by a very distinguished Canadian, Lieutenant-Colonel David V. Currie, holder of the Victoria Cross, and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The presence of a good many members of the security staff, over which the Colonel presides, in the corridors as he carried the mace today perhaps was an indication that this is a very special moment, because it is the last day on which the Colonel will fulfil that function. I have to take some responsibility for the fact that it may even have been an irregularity, due to the fact that the order in council appointing his successor has already been signed, and therefore he may be in here against the rules which he has been around to enforce for these 18 years. However, that is a responsibility which I will be glad to accept.

The responsibilities of the Speaker, at least those which are visible to the public, are well known. What is not well known is the range of responsibilities which touch the administration of the facilities which exist for members of the House of Commons, and that includes five buildings, two of which are under extensive renovation and all of which have to be provided with maintenance staff, security, all kinds of catering, restaurant facilities, and a whole range of services for which the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons bears full and total responsibility. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that any member of this House of Commons who has had the opportunity to travel to other legislative buildings around the world is able to return here and say that we rightfully take a very special pride in the first-class appearance and condition of these facilities which serve us in our work here in Ottawa.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!