

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 19, 1981

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CALL FOR MINISTER TO VISIT RESTIGOUCHE RESERVE IN QUEBEC—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, I am rising under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter which is more than pressing and urgent; it is critical. Yesterday the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) received the following telegram from Restigouche, Quebec:

An immediate intervention is requested to bring about a just solution in the problems facing the Indian people of the Restigouche reserve in the province of Quebec and their present jurisdictional dispute with the Premier of the Government of Quebec.

Furthermore, we request that you direct the Minister of Indian Affairs . . . to immediately visit the chief and band council of the Restigouche reserve and the other assembled Indian delegates from across the country.

The explosiveness of this situation at Restigouche is mounting by the minute. Just as I entered the chamber I was informed that another invasion of the reserve is imminent. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Erie (Mr. Fretz):

That the Prime Minister immediately despatch the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to Restigouche in order to make every effort to settle the dispute before the situation becomes violent.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY TELEPHONE SERVICE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. An Ottawa journalist, Frank Howard, reports the following conversation when he telephoned the headquarters of the New Democratic Party in Ottawa yesterday:

Me—Je voudrais parler avec M. Robin Sears.

NDP Woman—He's in a meeting.

Me—Pardon?

NDP Woman—He's not here.

Me—Je voudrais parler avec Robin Sears.

NDP Woman—Just a minute.

(At this point the line was cut and I was switched to a second person).

Second NDP Woman—What do you want?

Me—Je voudrais parler avec M. Sears.

Second NDP Woman—He's in a meeting! (louder)

Me—Pardon?

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kilgour: I am coming to the motion, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: I am sure this kind of crank preamble cannot be allowed. Does the hon. member have a motion?

Mr. Kilgour: I move, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen):

That the NDP consider engaging a bilingual telephone receptionist at its national headquarters.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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BANKS AND BANKING

BANKS' PROFITS ON PROPERTY TAX COMPONENT OF MORTGAGE PAYMENTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that a policy of the chartered banks is to offer on home mortgages a maximum interest rate of 3 per cent on the property tax component of monthly home mortgage payments, compared with a 16 per cent plus interest rate offered on savings accounts, and in view of the fact that this policy not only blatantly discriminates against the home owner but also renders to the banks millions of dollars in excess profits, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday):

That this House deplores this practice of the chartered banks which gouges the Canadian consumer and urges them to review their existing policy with the purpose of returning to the consumer of a home mortgage a rate of return on his dollar which is fair, rather than continuing a practice which serves only to increase their own profit margin at the direct expense of the home owner.