

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 16, 1977

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### THE MINISTRY

REQUEST MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE  
APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS ABOUT CAPE BRETONERS—MOTION  
UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. On October 20 I rose in this House urging the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner) to consider new coal mines on Cape Breton Island. I received a rather satisfactory reply. In his reply the minister said, and I quote:

My long association with the hon. member has made me very, very aware of the problems in Cape Breton. He can rest assured that his representations will be noted and remembered.

On Wednesday, November 9 in a speech made in this House the same minister stated:

We are slow in developing some of our coal mines. That is one aspect which—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member has a motion, would he put it forthwith.

**Mr. Muir:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to do so, although I have to lay a foundation for Your Honour's assistance. The minister went on to say the following:

... especially in Cape Breton because of the costs, and I think I should say perhaps because of the inappreciability of the Cape Bretoner for the retention of his job.

Then he admitted: "This is a serious accusation".

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. member has a motion, would he move it.

**Mr. Muir:** I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain):

That, in light of this insane and disgusting insinuation by the minister, which more or less implies in his view that Cape Bretoners are lazy and cannot retain their jobs, it is incumbent upon the hon. gentleman to make a public apology to the people of Cape Breton for his outrageous contumely.

I might add for the minister's information that "contumely" does not refer to a wheat combine. If he wants to know what that means, we will send him a dictionary.

**Mr. Speaker:** The presentation of such a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION ACTION BE TAKEN TO INCREASE BASIC  
DISABILITY PENSION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am confident that there are members in all parties who would like to see this motion passed without debate. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House calls on the Minister of Veterans Affairs, now that he has learned very clearly from a great many veterans of their deep concern over the decision not to increase the basic rate of the war disability pension, to re-open this issue in cabinet, it being the view of this House that the basic rate of the war disability pension should be kept in line with the level of take-home pay of the five categories of public servants, as approved by parliament in 1973, and that action on this matter should be taken without any further delay.

**Mr. Speaker:** Such a motion can be presented for discussion pursuant to Standing Order 43 only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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[Translation]

### THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT MAKE PROPOSALS FOR RENEWED  
FEDERALISM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of pressing and urgent necessity.

The CBC French program *Télé Mag* recently made public a poll in which 70 per cent of Quebecers questioned were in favour of a renewed federalism, 35 per cent, or more than the whole of the opposition parties, were for the Lévesque adminis-