

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question of privilege or a point of order can always be raised. However, I do not know of any authority for saying it can interrupt the putting of a question which is in the hands of the Chair. I will put the motion and then recognize the hon. member on his question of privilege.

● (1420)

The House has heard the terms of the motion proposed by the hon. member for Nipissing under Standing Order 43. It cannot be put without unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: Since there is not unanimous consent the motion cannot be put.

REQUEST FOR PROCLAMATION OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1975 AS HOLIDAY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I still rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Prior to the sitting of the House at two o'clock today, I gave notice to Your Honour, to members on the government side and to others on the opposition side, that I would be moving a motion regarding Heritage Day under Standing Order 43. I was informed that my motion would be accepted. It comes as a surprise that a motion on the same subject was moved ahead of mine, but even so I was prepared to agree to that motion.

In any case, having been informed that my motion would be accepted, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands:

That this House urge the government to proclaim Monday, February 17, 1975, as Heritage Day, so that it may be observed throughout Canada as a holiday.

In the light of the assurance I have been given that my proposal is acceptable, I request unanimous consent to move this motion.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion which is moved pursuant to Standing Order 43 and which therefore requires the unanimous consent of the House before it can be put. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent, so the motion cannot be put.

Heritage Day TRANSPORT

SUGGESTION GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDE FREIGHT RATE ISSUE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43.

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to request the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. It concerns the numerous delays in making a decision regarding the freight rate increases requested by the railways. In the light of the fact that the decision concerning the implementation of the freight rate increases requested by the railways has been batted around between the Transport Commission, the federal Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and back again, and since this legal game of musical chairs has resulted in a situation in which, at this point, no one knows where they are sitting, if, indeed, they are sitting at all—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member well knows that Standing Order 43 permits only a brief explanation by the hon. member. I suggest to him that he ought very quickly to come to the point.

Mr. Murta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important matter and I was just coming to the terms of my motion. Since this situation has given rise to grave uncertainties, hardship to the public and a lack of confidence in the federal decision-making process, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Churchill:

That the Governor-in-Council, using his authority under section 64(1) of the National Transportation Act, do now hand down a fair, equitable and firm decision in substantial accordance with the most recent decision of the Canadian Transport Commission, to protect the interests of the Canadian public.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the proposed motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The motion cannot be put.

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HERITAGE DAY

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE HOLIDAY IN FEBRUARY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to seek permission to put forward a motion under the terms of Standing Order 43. As Heritage Day cannot be brought in by proclamation I hope the House will be willing to urge that it be done by legislation.

Accordingly, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre:

That this House urge the government to introduce forthwith legislation to provide for the third Monday in February of each year to be observed as a holiday to be known as Heritage Day.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.