

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, December 3, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Government House,
Ottawa, 3 December, 1970

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Gérard Fauteux, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, December 3, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Louis-Frémont Trudeau
Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

● (2:10 p.m.)

AUDITOR GENERAL

CONSENT TO WITHDRAWAL OF BILL—REQUEST FOR
UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION
UNDER STANDING ORDER 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask leave of the House to present a motion under Standing Order 43.

The clear and pressing necessity for this motion is very direct and can be stated in a sentence or two. Yesterday the President of the Treasury Board was quoted as saying outside the House that in order for Bill C-190 to be withdrawn it would be necessary for the House to give unanimous consent and he thought this would not be forthcoming from the opposition. Believing that it would, and hoping that the government agrees, all I need to do, seconded by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis), is to move:

That this House gives consent to the President of the Treasury Board to withdraw from the order paper government order No. 38, namely the order for the second reading of Bill C-190, an Act respecting the Auditor General of Canada.

Mr. Hees: Now what are you going to do?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Sit down.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. As is well known by now, hon. members realize

that the unanimous consent of the House is required for this motion to be put. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Trudeau: Carried.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent? It is very difficult, I must say—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether a voice vote is appropriate in such circumstances. I must say that I could not hear any nays or dissenting voices.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is—

Mr. Fairweather: Where is Drury?

Some hon. Members: Where is he?

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that the motion is now to be put. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Carried.
Motion agreed to.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, had I been given the opportunity a little earlier I could have saved the House some time.

An hon. Member: Oh, come off it.

Mr. MacEachen: I should like now to do what I intended to do when I got to my feet—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen:—and that is to ask, on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board, for the withdrawal of Bill C-190 from the order paper.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. From a procedural standpoint I doubt whether the motion proposed by the minister is in order. My understanding is that the motion under Standing Order 43 has been put and agreed to by the House. I would not think that anything further is required at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Fire him!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members will realize that this is a very novel situation. There are few precedents that I know of and I would certainly like to hear the