

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, October 22, 1979

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### NATIONAL UNITY

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF  
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND THE MERIT PRINCIPLE—  
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 43 I request the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion dealing with an important and urgent matter.

Considering that the Quebec referendum campaign is now under way; considering that federal civil servants, as first-class citizens, will be called upon to participate actively in that campaign; considering that the employment act restricts the political participation of civil servants in the normal election process but gives no indication as to the legality of their active participation in partisan referendum activities; considering that the Progressive Conservative government cannot continue to waffle on this matter and must give clear and specific instructions with regard to this important matter, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau):

[English]

That this House requests the government to amend the Public Service Employment Act and, in doing so, adopt the recommendations of the special committee on the Review of Personnel Management and the Merit Principle so as to allow some public servants to participate freely in political activities during elections and referendum campaigns and, secondly, to allow public servants for whom the duties of their positions vary from the first group, to participate in elections and referendums subject to request by the employee and decisions by the Public Service Commission and, thirdly, to prohibit senior executives and senior management, whose duties can be considered sensitive if they participate in elections or referendum campaigns; the foregoing to allow Canadians working in the public service to participate in good conscience and in defence of their country in the upcoming referendum.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

[English]

### HUMAN RIGHTS

REQUEST THERE BE OPEN TRIAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS  
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, under Standing Order 43, on a matter of pressing and urgent necessity for which there seems to be support in all parts of the House.

In view of the fact that today the trial of a number of human rights activists begins in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in view of the fact that the activities of these people are apparently the result of a civil rights movement which led to the creation of the movement known under the name of "Charter 77", and in view of the fact that Law No. 120 of the Czechoslovak Collection of Laws of October 13, 1976, includes the text of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which were signed on behalf of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in 1968 and confirmed at the 1975 Helsinki Conference, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

That this House register with the Parliament of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the concern and the hope of the Canadian people that these trials be conducted publicly, be open to observers and that the human and civil rights of those being tried be upheld and respected according to the spirit of the Helsinki Act.

**Mr. Speaker:** The presentation of such a motion for debate at this time can be done, pursuant to Standing Order 43, only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

### EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION

ISSUANCE OF WORK VISAS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS—MOTION  
UNDER S.O. 43

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.