

● (1520)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26**

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## UNITED STATES FUNDING FOR GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to my notice to you at noon today, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the matter of the Garrison diversion project and the effects of the Senate appropriation bill presently being considered by the United States Senate.

The United States Senate is presently considering a supplemental appropriations bill that would provide \$9.7 million in funding to the Garrison diversion project. Should the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States approve such funding, the completion of the full irrigation project would be irreversible. It would cause pollution in Canadian waters and the introduction of nuisance fish species which would effect an estimated \$6 million in damage annually to the commercial freshwater industry in Manitoba.

In addition the interbasin biological transfers that would result from the linking of the Hudson Bay and Missouri River basins would be a clear violation on the part of the United States of America of the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty Act which promises that one country will not pollute another's waters to the detriment of health and property.

Because of the extreme likelihood that this bill will pass the Senate this week, it is imperative that this House discuss this matter at the only opportunity available to it, which is this afternoon.

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I did not intend to interrupt the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) who has introduced the motion under Standing Order 26, but I would draw your attention to section (3) of Standing Order 26 at page 18, which states:

When requesting leave to propose such a motion, the member shall rise in his place and present without argument the statement referred to in Section 2 of this Order.

I believe it was the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) who three weeks ago introduced a motion under Standing Order 26 and who, in the introduction of this motion, presented considerable debate. I would ask your indulgence, Madam Speaker, to rule on this matter or at least give an interpretation of the rule. I know that you are very gracious and like to give all hon. members an equal break, but I do believe that, since there is a rule on the books, it should be observed unless we intend to change it.

*Order Paper Questions*

**Madam Speaker:** I do not feel that the hon. member abused the rule. I believe that in the presentation of such a motion an hon. member is allowed to give a very brief explanation, but not to enter into argument, and on that point the parliamentary secretary is right.

With regard to this motion under Standing Order 26, it is undoubtedly a very important matter that the hon. member has raised, as it has been raised many times in this House and in committees over the past several years. In determining whether a matter should have urgent consideration and is appropriate to ask for the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26, the Chair must have regard to the extent that it concerns the administrative responsibilities of the Government of Canada or could come within the scope of ministerial action.

The written statement submitted by the hon. member shows concern in relation to a bill which is before the United States Senate. In this connection it is clear to the Chair that neither the Canadian government nor this House can interfere with proceedings in the United States Senate. There are already in place mechanisms as, for instance, the Department of External Affairs, for which the minister replied today during question period, and the International Joint Commission, which has been very active with regard to the problem raised by the hon. member, by which Canada may protect its interests in such matters.

Until such avenues are known to have been exhausted, it would be very difficult for the Chair to set aside its scheduled business, particularly in view of the fact, as noted in paragraph (5) of Standing Order 26, that there is a probability of the matter being brought before the House within a reasonable time by other means which could be more effective. For instance, the main estimates for the current year are before various standing committees where the various questions relating to this matter can be dealt with in depth.

For these reasons, I regret that the hon. member's request for leave cannot be accepted at this time. Should it not be possible to consider this matter in that way, or should the situation change substantially, the House may want to reconsider it then.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[Translation]

**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 185, 199, 202, 235, 307, 605, 706, 720, 808, 840 and 933.