

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, May 20, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present the First Report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and I am pleased to report Bill C-93, an Act relating to the establishment of self-government for the Sechelt Indian Band, as amended.

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PETITION

LOCAL MEASURED TELEPHONE CHARGES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by several hundred residents of my constituency of Burnaby, particularly senior citizens, who call upon Parliament to direct the CRTC to deny to telephone companies such as B.C. Telephone Company the right to implement a system of local measured service whereby there would be a charge for each call, and point out that such a system of charging would impose a very severe hardship on thousands of Canadians, particularly senior citizens and the handicapped.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 29

FOREST FIRES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a motion of an application under Standing Order 29 from the Hon. Member for Fundy—Royal (Mr. Corbett).

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, consistent with Standing Order 29, I have today informed you that it was my intention to raise a matter in the House requesting an emergency debate on a situation that I consider to be extremely serious. The debate I seek centres on the disastrous situation

that has developed in Atlantic Canada during the past week as a result of many major forest fires. The fires have been particularly devastating in New Brunswick and Newfoundland, provinces heavily dependent on the woods industry for the employment of their people and the maintenance of their economies.

The forestry sector is the largest employer in the nation. One out of every 10 employed persons in Canada is employed by that sector. It is our biggest foreign exchange earner and one of the largest purchasers of manufactured goods in Canada.

With the devastation of Atlantic Canadian forests, the potential disastrous ramifications to the nation are enormous. We cannot as legislators allow the seriousness of the situation to go unaddressed. We have a moral responsibility to respond immediately, and for that reason, Your Honour, I respectfully request an adjournment of the House for an emergency debate on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker: I have examined the letter the Hon. Member sent and I may say his application was exemplary. I am persuaded that the conditions and terms of Standing Order 29 have in fact been met. Does the Hon. Member have leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 29 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Leave having been granted, debate is set down for eight o'clock.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Ron Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last, I asked a question of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) concerning pensions in the Public Service. I have had a question on the Order Paper for close to a year now dealing specifically with that matter. Given that the Minister told me he will give me an answer by the end of May, and that those