

11, constitute an unprecedented and arrogant threat to the Auditor General which would result in limiting supervision of the spending of the taxpayers' money. Without the means and opportunity to defend himself, the government should not stoop to attacks of this kind which weaken the position of the Auditor General and his effectiveness in dealing with the public accounts of Canada. If they are satisfied that he is in breach of his duty they have a remedy under the Financial Administration Act.

I therefore ask leave to put the following motion:

That this House regrets the continued attacks by members of the government on the Auditor General of Canada who, in the exercise of his duty, has justified the confidence of the House by making annual reports to Parliament without fear or favour.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Peace River. The motion can be put at this time for consideration by the House if there is unanimous agreement. I must ask whether there is unanimity.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Since there is not agreement the motion cannot be put.

• (2:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Trampling on the rights of Parliament!

**An hon. Member:** The just society!

CRITICISMS BY MINISTERS—REQUEST (MR. KNOWLES, WINNIPEG NORTH CENTRE) FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I too rise to ask for the consent of the House to make a motion under Standing Order 43. The Standing Order reads as follows:

A motion may, in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the House without notice having been given under Standing Order 42.

The explanation I wish to give is very brief. The situation which has been the subject matter of the last two interventions is a very serious one, but there is something we can do in a moment to resolve it. I ask that when the Prime Minister hears my motion he request those on his side of the House not to object to its being put.

*Auditor General*

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Aiken:** What about the Prime Minister?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What a hope!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I accept your ruling, sir, that there was not a question of privilege as privilege is defined, but by unanimous action the House can do something to resolve the situation. I respectfully request that consideration be given to the granting of unanimous consent, and on that basis I move:

That this House reaffirms its confidence in Mr. Maxwell Henderson as Auditor General of Canada.

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

**Mr. Fairweather:** What about that, boys?

**An hon. Member:** Say "no".

**Mr. Speaker:** I will not make a ruling at this time on whether it is in order according to the Standing Orders to have more than one motion on the same subject under Standing Order 43. I have never seriously considered the point, and this would not be an appropriate time to make that kind of ruling. With this reservation I will accept the motion proposed by the hon. member from the procedural stand point, and ask whether the House gives unanimous consent under Standing Order 43 for the motion to be put now?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no unanimity and therefore the motion cannot be put.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is there not some way for those who said "no" to identify themselves?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister is included.

**An hon. Member:** The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth rises in his place.

**Mr. Bell:** Make him a Parliamentary Secretary.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Maybe even a minister.

**An hon. Member:** Give him a judgeship.