

Space Agency

I conclude by again inviting you to consider on its merits the precedents that have been cited and the relevant Standing Order, which I submit allows this motion and in fact requires this motion to be considered under Motions during Routine Proceedings.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to belabour the point, but it seems to me that Standing Order 67(p) is quite clear on this matter. It says:

The following motions are debatable: (p) such other motion, made upon Routine Proceedings, as may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the House, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days—

While it may be that the practice has arisen that the Government House Leader alone introduces motions under Routine Proceedings for these purposes, it seems to me there are other purposes besides those which may be countenanced. Clearly, the precedents cited by the Hon. Member for Kamloops dealing with the right of the House to call persons to appear before its Bar and answer questions is one of those that is not necessarily a Government motion at all. Given that the two notices of motion we have—one from the Leader of the Opposition and one from the Hon. Member for Kamloops—deal with matters that could fit under this section (p), they are clearly debatable motions and ones that could be brought under Routine Proceedings.

I want to support the suggestion that the Hon. Member for Kamloops has made and reinforce the argument that under Standing Order 67(p), it would be possible for these motions to be brought under Routine Proceedings and not as Private Members' Motions and debated in the proper way there.

They do relate to the arrangement of proceedings of the House, to the management of its business, to the conduct of its officers, maintenance of its authority, and so on. These are all items that are dealt with in the two notices of motion that we have before us. I would ask that Your Honour consider them under that heading.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kamloops has raised an intriguing matter. It is strongly supported by the Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca and other Members.

The Hon. Member for Halifax West has raised an issue which is also interesting and probably bears some careful consideration. That is, whether or not the orders of this

House ought to be examined on the basis that since the orders were originally made and then amended from time to time or added to or deleted, we now have a Charter of Rights and to what degree does that Charter of Rights affect the orders of this House.

I think I understand the Hon. Member's point that I will have to consider. I will try to return to the House as quickly as possible on this matter. I understand perfectly that the Hon. Member for Kamloops would want the decision made as quickly as possible. I thank the Hon. Members for their courtesy and help.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. William C. Winegard (for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology) moved that Bill C-16, an Act to establish the Canadian Space Agency and to provide for other matters in relation to space, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, today this House once again plays a part in history. We are debating the establishment of the Canadian Space Agency, an historic step in the development of Canada's space program.

The establishment of the Canadian Space Agency will play an important part in the development of a Canadian economic capability based on a partnership between industry, government, and universities. Beyond that, it is another venture by Canada and Canadians into the newest era of human development, the space age.

Since our ancestors in very early times first realized that the lights in the night sky were physical bodies, humanity has wanted to learn more about the universe. Our fascination now with space travel is not new. There has always existed the urge to travel to the moon and to the planets.

Our understanding of the heavens has evolved slowly. The history of that understanding is studded with the names of the great scientists: Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Einstein and many others.