

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 18, 1976

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO OPERATIONS—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion under Standing Order 43. It is prompted by a press release of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) in which he instructs Commissioner Smith of the Yukon, in his capacity as Chairman Smith of the Northern Canada Power Commission, to conduct an investigation into certain cost overruns in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The minister then instructs Commissioner Smith to convene the public utilities boards of each territory to require Chairman Smith to report to Commissioner Smith as to the investigation and report to the minister. That is like asking the Mafia to audit its own books.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth):

That a full and independent public inquiry be established pursuant to the provisions of the Inquiries Act to inquire into the entire operations of the Northern Canada Power Commission with full power to call for persons, papers and things and to report its findings and recommendations to this House within three months of its establishment; such findings and recommendations also to be submitted to the legislative assemblies of the Yukon and Northwest Territories respectively for approval, adoption or otherwise by those elected assemblies on behalf of the people of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OF PROVISION
IN BAIL LAW GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF SPEECH—MOTION
UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 concerning the report of the unique and incredible decision of Mr. Justice Bélanger in the case of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, which prevents a Canadian citizen, as a condition of

bail, from speaking, not merely about his pending trial, which would be unusual but not unique, but goes further and prevents a citizen of this country from speaking on a subject of general interest and importance. This is the only case of its kind in the history of Canadian jurisprudence and a clear violation of the right to freedom of speech which is guaranteed under the Canadian Bill of Rights.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert):

That this House go on record as deploring this judicial decision and that this matter be referred to the Minister of Justice and the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for recommendation of changes to the Bail Reform Act so that freedom of speech may receive the protection in this country guaranteed under the Canadian Bill of Rights.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Such a motion can only be debated with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—PROPOSED CONSULTATION
WITH QUEBEC TO AVOID PROBLEMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an important issue of pressing necessity.

Considering that the sponsors of LIP projects in Quebec experience many difficulties in carrying out their projects as a result of the order governing the construction trades, since those projects are temporary and do not compete with the construction industry, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House urge the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to have talks with the Quebec Minister of Labour to find a solution enabling the sponsors of LIP projects to carry out their plans without taking into account the regulations of the Quebec Labour Board and thus losing substantial amounts paid by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker: Order. 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 such a consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.