

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 24, 1980

The House met at 11 a.m.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1105)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

CALL FOR TEST OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPREME COURT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the decision of six provincial governments to challenge the validity of the constitutional resolution of the federal government in the provincial courts, and in view of the serious divisions which have already been created in Canada among governments and private citizens over this issue, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling):

That the government test its proposals in the Supreme Court of Canada so as to shorten the time during which Canadians will remain in doubt as to the constitutionality of the government's approach to constitutional change.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

CALL FOR GUARANTEE JOINT COMMITTEE WILL TRAVEL ACROSS CANADA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the action of the government to suppress constructive criticism in the House of its constitutional proposals by invoking closure on the House this morning, and in view of the fact that recently major women's conferences, organized to review the constitutional proposal, were cancelled with the government's complicity, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen):

That the government guarantee that the special joint constitutional committee be required to travel across this country, to ensure that not only women but native peoples, minority groups and others whose rights will be restricted by the wording of this constitution will be permitted to have their concerns heard.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

● (1110)

DISARMAMENT

AFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. On the occasion of United Nations Day and the start of disarmament week in Canada, and at a point in world history when mankind spends more than 20 times as much on instruments of destruction—some \$500 billion annually—as it does on official development assistance to his neighbours in poorer lands, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong):

That this House affirm its commitment to disarmament as a primary objective of our foreign policy, and that it call upon the Government of Canada to actively pursue the "strategy of suffocation" outlined by the present Prime Minister to the United Nations special session on disarmament, namely, (1) a comprehensive test ban to impede the further development of nuclear explosive devices; (2) an agreement to stop the flight-testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles; (3) an agreement to prohibit all production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; and (4) an agreement to limit and then progressively to reduce military spending on new strategic nuclear weapons systems.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE CONSTITUTION

RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO BE HEARD IN JOINT COMMITTEE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Len. Gustafson (Assiniboia): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a very serious matter. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), in invoking closure, has deprived many western members of the right to be heard on the constitution in this House. Given the serious matter of the Prime Minister's responsibility with respect to western alienation, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil):

That this House allow all members to be heard in the committee so that the Prime Minister's concerted effort does not further divide this country.