

STATUS OF WOMEN

ACTION TO INCREASE FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN HOUSE OF COMMONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Al MacBain (Niagara Falls): Madam Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Whereas the participation of women in politics, commerce and the professions for more than 1,000 years has been and remains unequal when compared to that of men; and whereas this state of affairs will tend to continue unless and until the representation of women in the seats of political power is more or less equal to that of men; and whereas, in the troubled times that lie ahead, for selfish reasons alone, if not for the noblest of reasons, it is imperative that we no longer perpetuate a system which tends to prevent about one-half of our people from entering the mainstream of modern society; and whereas it is acknowledged that any new program for equalization must take account of input from the grassroots level of all political parties, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Mercier (Mrs. Hervieux-Payette), and supported by the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean) and the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett):

That this House unanimously accept, in principle, that it is necessary to take some innovative, direct and adequate action now to promote equal representation of women in the House of Commons by the year 1995 and that, to this end, the government be asked to appoint forthwith an all-party parliamentary task force of four women and three men to conduct an in-depth study of the matter and to prepare a report which shall delineate a course of action to promote the desired result, and that the report be tabled in this House on or before June 30, 1982.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is writing a book. Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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POST OFFICE

RECOMMENDATION THAT GOVERNMENT MOVE TO SETTLE POSTAL STRIKE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Madam Speaker, in view of the disastrous effect the postal strike is having generally on the Canadian public and specifically on the small business and agricultural sector, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger):

That the government immediately proceed to obtain a settlement so that the Canadian public will have this essential mail service restored.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

S.O. 43

HEALTH AND WELFARE

CABINET CONSIDERATION OF CHILDREN'S NEEDS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a very urgent matter. In view of the fact that it is 18 months since the International Year of the Child and thousands more babies have been born into poverty, children at risk have reached school age and adolescence and many are now beyond help, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the Prime Minister allocate a cabinet meeting to discuss the priority needs of Canada's children and that recommendations from the reports presented to the health and welfare committee and tabled in this House on Wednesday be discussed, in particular the recommendation

- (1) to establish a children's bureau,
- (2) action to appoint a minister to be responsible for children, and,
- (3) action requiring all federal departments concerned with children to act on the recommendations of these reports.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1115)

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

CONGRATULATIONS TO ORGANIZERS OF 1981 CANADIAN SUMMER SPECIAL OLYMPICS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have a motion to move under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on which I have consulted with all parties. The city of Ottawa will be hosting the 1981 Canadian Summer Special Olympics from July 16 to July 19. Seven hundred fifty mentally retarded athletes from across Canada will be competing in track and field, swimming, bowling, and floor hockey. I believe the House should encourage these special games and, if that is the case, I would like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans), and I know as well by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House congratulates the sponsors and organizers of the 1981 Canadian Summer Special Olympics and extends its best wishes to the competitors for success at these games and at the subsequent International Games in 1983.

Madam Speaker: I am sure members of the House will want to express those sentiments by their applause.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!