

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 28, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### POINT OF ORDER RESPECTING TABLING OF DOCUMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 41(2)—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Yesterday, on motions, the hon. Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier) proposed, under Standing Order 41(2), to table a document entitled: "Government of Canada Review of the Canadian Transport Commission Decision of March 30, 1973 on Bell Canada's Application "A".

The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) objected to this procedure, alleging that the minister should instead have submitted the document in the form of a statement to the House, under Standing Order 15(2). Since at the time I did not know the nature of the document, I suggested that I be allowed to study it in order to determine whether it was of the kind that can be placed on the table of the House in accordance with Standing Order 41(2). It appears that my words were not fully understood at the table, for the document tabled by the minister has indeed been accepted, as is shown by the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House. The comments of the Chair are therefore somewhat academic. I will, however, say a few words on the problem of procedure raised by the hon. member for York South, supported by his colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

It seems to me that the Standing Orders must be interpreted to mean that a minister's statement on any government action or policy should be made on motions, under Standing Order 15. This provision is, of course, aimed at giving the members of the opposition parties the opportunity to reply to such statements.

Having studied the document tabled yesterday by the Minister of Communications, I have the impression that it is of an informative nature, which could, in my opinion, be tabled under Standing Order 41, as the hon. minister did yesterday.

Generally speaking, I accept the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for York South that the text of a minister's statement of the kind normally made on motions under Standing Order 15 cannot be tabled pursuant to Standing Order 41. However, this does not seem to be the case since, in my opinion, the document concerned was one of those which can be tabled rather than presented to the House as a ministerial statement.

Maybe the objection of the hon. member for York South can be interpreted to the effect that the minister should have made a statement, pursuant to Standing Order 15, even after having tabled a document under Standing Order 41. Accordingly, the hon. member's point of order

does not relate to the interpretation of the Standing Orders. Rather it is a grievance which goes beyond the limits of the procedure.

• (1410)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### ENERGY

#### NATURAL GAS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I seek the unanimous consent of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion. In view of the acknowledged fact that natural gas exported from Canada is underpriced and that additional gas supplies will be more costly than those now readily available, and since the government has not yet presented its national energy policy, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That this House urges the government

- (1) to review all existing contracts for the export of natural gas with a view to setting minimum prices based on the cost of competitive fuels and to impose an export tax equal to the price increases so that the benefits will accrue to the people of Canada;
- (2) to refuse any additional permits for the export of natural gas until the government has submitted its national energy policy to parliament; and
- (3) to instruct the National Energy Board not to approve any application for a gas pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley until the government has brought down its long awaited national energy policy.

**Mr. Speaker:** This motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity.

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### AIR CANADA

#### FINANCE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES STRIKE AT WINNIPEG—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion dealing with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. I move, seconded by the hon.