

THE CONSTITUTION

RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to propose a motion similar to that proposed by the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), to make sure there is no misunderstanding in this House. Noting that there was unanimous consent given in this House yesterday to urge the government of Saskatchewan to accept the entrenchment of full equality for women in the constitutional accord, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent):

That this House now give unanimous consent to urging the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition to contact Premier Lougheed and Premier Bennett, and urge them to accept entrenchment of aboriginal and treaty rights in the same accord.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), as usual, is a little behind the times. Had he looked on the table when coming into the opposition lobby today he would have seen a stack of press releases put out by the office of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), dealing with this matter. A telex was sent yesterday, not just to the premiers set out in his motion but, indeed, to all premiers. The text of that telex sets forth the spirit of the motion that he has moved and which the House has unanimously accepted. I might just read that text into the record, if I have the time.

This is the telex that the Leader of the Opposition sent to all provincial premiers:

The Progressive Conservative Party in Parliament will be offering certain amendments to the government's latest constitutional proposals. The amendments would increase substantially the support in Canada for a full constitutional settlement, within the spirit of the accord of November 5.

In order to meet the stated objections of the government of Quebec, we propose to reinstate the full financial compensation provisions of the April accord. The benefits of that would naturally be available to all provinces.

Further, we believe that it is not in the national interest to exclude from the resolution the reasonable and fair assurances to the aboriginal peoples which were contained in Section 34 of the previous resolution and which were supported overwhelmingly by all parties in Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1115)

Mr. Nielsen: I am sorry, Madam Speaker, time prevents me from reading the full text, but it deals with those matters, including equality of women, and so on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: It is now 11.15 a.m. I must interrupt the debate on this motion. However, if the House wishes, I can put the motion to the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: The discussion is over. It is time for oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

INDUSTRY

LAY-OFFS INSTITUTED BY MASSEY-FERGUSON

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who undoubtedly is aware that for approximately 1,900 employees at Massey-Ferguson this is their last work day as a result of having been given notice of temporary lay-offs on Monday, for a period which will not end before February.

Would the minister indicate to the House, bearing in mind that his government has guaranteed various obligations for Massey-Ferguson to the tune of \$125 million, and bearing in mind it will mean a total of 3,000 of the 6,400 work force in Canada of Massey-Ferguson will now be laid off, which is almost a 50 per cent lay-off in Canada compared with approximately an 18 per cent lay-off in the United States, and no lay-off whatsoever in Massey-Ferguson factories around the world with respect to some 20,000 other workers, why this lay-off is occurring?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, the plants in Canada make combines. The market for combines is particularly weak in the United States which is the main outlet for these products. The great bulk of these products is exported to the United States and, unfortunately, economic conditions there do not permit the level of sales of these combines which we would like to see.

The same thing is happening to the principal competitors of Massey-Ferguson, such as John Deere and International Harvester. They are laying off substantial numbers of people from their combines plants in that country as well. We are not happy about these lay-offs, but they seem to be a reflection of conditions in the principal market for the products made by the Massey-Ferguson plants in Canada.

LAY-OFFS INSTITUTED BY RCA VICTOR IN MIDLAND, ONT.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is again to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who undoubtedly is well aware of the fact that in