HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 13, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

• (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

AIR CANADA URGED TO INCLUDE NEWFOUNDLAND AND SASKATCHEWAN IN PROMOTION OF TOURISM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. The latest promotional program of Air Canada, called "Share Canada", under Maritime Explorer Tours, Atlantic Freedom, Canaplan, Canadapass, Canada Fly Drive, Summertime Spectaculars, Motorhome Camping Vacations, and others, extols the virtues of holidaying in every province but Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn):

That this House directs the Minister of Transport to correct this discriminatory oversight by Air Canada and that immediate appointments be made to the board of directors to include those provinces to ensure recognition of Newfoundland and Saskatchewan as important sectors of our nation in all phases of economic activity and to allow all Canadians to enjoy the beauty and attraction of those provinces, as well as the others.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion for discussion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

SUGGESTION FÉDÉRATION DES FRANCOPHONES HORS QUÉBEC NEGOTIATE FOR FRANCOPHONE MINORITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an important matter of pressing necessity. Considering that it is important to grant to Francophone minorities a status at least

similar to that granted to the English minority in Quebec; considering that an unbiased, conscientious and dynamic organization represents the entire Francophone community outside Quebec; and considering that the Fédération des Francophones hors Québec has taken in charge the fate of such minorities, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard):

That the government recognize the Fédération des Francophones hors Québec as the valid party for any negotiation or agreement concerning Francophone minorities in each Canadian province.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

COMMONWEALTH DAY—PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps hon. members will join with me, before beginning question period, in calling attention to the significance of this day, Commonwealth Day. I have had the good fortune and honour, on behalf of parliament, of inviting some members of the House of Commons to a reception-luncheon to receive the High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries.

Perhaps we might pause for a moment before the question period to call attention to their presence in the gallery and to recognize the significance and value of our connection with the Commonwealth of Countries which all of us support and regard as an association of countries long past the historical sense and now having reached a voluntary association of peace-loving countries who espouse the best of all ideals between the developed and developing nations. It is an association between those who endeavour to reach out and help each other, which in that connection has some basis in history but, more importantly, in modern times it is a voluntary arrangement of friendship and association of the best ideas espoused by all of us in public life.

• (1412)

I hope that all members of the House will join me in signalling the presence of these Commonwealth High Commissioners, to call once more into attention and prominence the