

Agriculture

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED REVIEW OF SEASONAL DUTIES ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity relating to the signs of spring which are beginning to manifest themselves in the capital despite the blustery winds and equinoxial gales we are experiencing today, signs of spring as evidenced by the fresh daffodils from my riding, Esquimalt-Saanich, which are available in the lobbies to all hon. members and which pages will deliver to all hon. lady members of this House on this first day of spring in International Women's Year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): In view of the unfair competition under which Canadian agriculturalists and horticulturalists in the west suffer from cheap products from abroad in the form of vegetables, cut flowers, shrubs and fruits, I seek the unanimous consent of this House for the following motion:

That the Minister of Agriculture, in consultation with his colleague the Minister of Finance, undertake a review of the regulations relating to the seasonal imposition of duties on vegetables, cut flowers, shrubs and fruits from outside our borders, in particular recognition of the early maturing stages in British Columbia, so that agriculturalists in the garden riding of Esquimalt-Saanich shall be able to continue their commercial operations and provide their customers in the east and in the west with garden-fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker: The motion being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent for the debate?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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● (1130)

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR IMPROVED RAILWAY SERVICE FOR NORTHWEST QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 43, I ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on an urgent matter of pressing necessity.

Owing to the fact that railway transport is the principal mode of transport in northwest Quebec for industrial and commercial supplies and that deliveries are terribly delayed, it is not unusual for packages to take two weeks

[Mr. Speaker.]

to cover the 45 miles between Senneterre and Val-d'Or, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That this House instruct the Minister of Transport to launch an investigation into the excessive slowness of railways in moving goods in northwest Quebec and to report to this House about the steps he intends to take to remedy this situation and assure merchants, industry and the people of northwest Quebec of better railway services, which I claim on behalf of the economy of this area.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion. It being proposed pursuant to Standing Order 43, it cannot be debated without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; therefore, the motion cannot be put.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

PROPOSED DEBATE ON RETENTION OR ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 26, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration.

This specific and important matter is in respect of the recent increase in the incidence of murder, and to the 1973 amendment to the Criminal Code that abolished capital punishment for murder except for killing policemen and prison guards. This law will continue until December 31, 1977. Of most concern to the Canadian public is the resolution of the question of whether or not to abolish or retain capital punishment. There must be a debate on this matter and on the question of whether to introduce new legislation to abolish or restrict the royal prerogative, exercised on the advice of the cabinet, to commute death sentences when there has been no recommendation for mercy. If my proposal is acceptable, Mr. Speaker, I will move the adjournment of the House, seconded by the member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle).

Mr. Speaker: There is not the slightest question about the importance of the subject matter raised by the hon. member. In conformity with Standing Order 26, the hon. member gave the Chair notice of his intention to move for this emergency debate.

While on some occasions in the past I have had no difficulty in seeing a proper emergency situation requiring the implementation of Standing Order 26, I do not on this occasion have any difficulty in saying that it is not the purpose of the Standing Order to bring about amendments to existing statutes or deal with continuing aggra-