

Flooding Skagit Valley

● (1410)

[English]

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON
USER-PAY CONCEPT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity concerning press reports today of an address by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) in Hamilton on the subject of the government's user pay policy for transportation and particularly the statement attributed to the minister that, and I quote:

I would like to point out to you that it's the taxpayer who's the user. I am the employee doing the user's business and therefore obviously the user pays.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie):

That the Minister of Transport make a statement to the House outlining on behalf of himself and the government all the reasons justifying his illogical and strange contention that the taxpayer is the user and should therefore pay for flights he makes, including those of a personal and political nature, and finally that the government give assurances to this House that at last steps will be taken to prevent forthwith such arrogant further gross misuse of public funds by the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OPPOSITION TO FLOODING OF SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of the same standing order, and I hope the same consideration will be given to my motion in terms of unanimity as that which was given to the hon. member's motion on the penitentiary matter. This motion has been canvassed by the four parties in the House.

In view of the decision of the Governor of the State of Washington reversing that state's position on the flooding of the Skagit Valley by the Seattle City Light Company, and in view of the position taken unanimously by this House and by the government of Canada on November 2, 1973 in opposition to the flooding of the Skagit Valley, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House reaffirms its unanimous decision taken on November 2, 1973 opposing any flooding of the Skagit Valley in the province of British Columbia by United States power authorities and that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Washington and the President of the United States.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: The provisions of Standing Order 43 require that for the presentation for debate of such a motion the unanimous consent of the House must be given. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PENITENTIARIES

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the atmosphere here which has seen two Standing Order 43 motions passed today, I would like first to associate myself quite explicitly with the congratulations extended to the members of the subcommittee on the penitentiary system, who did an excellent job.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: In addition, in posing my question to the Solicitor General, I should like to congratulate the government for taking up our initiative to appoint a committee of inquiry.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: In that same spirit might I ask the minister if he accepts the general recommendations made in the report, and if he shares the explicit view in the first recommendation of the report that a crisis exists in the Canadian penitentiary system that can be met only by the implementation of large scale reforms?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I, of course, associate myself with the good words he addressed to all members of the parliamentary committee which of course was set up on my initiative.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Nice try.

Mr. Fox: On this side of the House the word "crisis" usually invokes concepts of both danger and opportunity. I think the report of the parliamentary committee indicates a great opportunity to continue to make changes that are necessary in the penitentiary system in Canada.