

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, December 10, 1979

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

NATIONAL REVENUE

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON TAXING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF OIL COMPANIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 7, the Prime Minister made a statement in the House to the effect that the government would tax away 100 per cent of additional revenues accruing to the oil companies as a result of any oil price increases. This sent the Toronto Stock Exchange oil price index crashing 109 points and caused panic in the Toronto and New York investment communities before the right hon. gentleman's office could clarify the position. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Verchères (Mr. Loiselle):

That in light of the Prime Minister's continuing obsession with contradictory and confusing statements, from now on the North American investment community be instructed to check with the office of the Prime Minister before believing anything he says.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

ENTRENCHMENT IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Today marks the thirtieth anniversary of the abolition of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain, thus making the Supreme Court of Canada the ultimate appeal tribunal for Canadian law. What is not generally recognized is that the Supreme Court of Canada, unlike the supreme court of the United States, is not a constitutional court but merely a creation of Parliament and, therefore, subject to abolition by an act of this legislature.

In order to provide our supreme tribunal with formal as well as substantial independence from political institutions so that it can enhance its role both as a court of appeal and as a constitutional arbiter, I ask leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan):

That this House urge the government to introduce a constitutional amendment making the Supreme Court a constitutional court fully protected by entrenchment in the British North America Act.

Mr. Speaker: Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, unanimous consent of the House is required before the motion can be presented. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION

FUNDS TO RESTORE FULL SERVICE TO NORTHERN COMMUNITIES—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Peter Ittinuar (Nunatsiak): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Whereas the residents of communities in the Mackenzie Delta area are experiencing severe hardship as a result of power shortages caused by faulty generating equipment, and whereas the Northern Canada Power Commission has blamed its inability to properly repair and maintain this equipment on lack of funds, I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton):

That emergency funds be provided to NCPC so that they can immediately carry out necessary repairs and restore full service to the affected communities.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion proposed. Is there unanimous consent that it be presented?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLLUTION OF NIAGARA RIVER BY U.S. CHEMICAL COMPANY—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under Standing Order 43, to seek the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

● (1410)

In view of the fact that a company by the name of S.C.A. in the United States has been dumping thousands of gallons of PCBs and other harmful chemicals into the Niagara River on a daily basis, and in view of the fact that the continuation of this method of disposal has a potentially harmful and lasting