

S.O. 31

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 31

NORTHLAND BANK SITUATION

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a notice of motion under Standing Order 31 from the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans).

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, as you know, my Leader filed with you on two previous occasions a request for the adjournment of the House in order to discuss what we and I think others consider to be a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, the current financial situation at the Northland Bank. If you were to decide there is a *prima facie* case for allowing such a motion today, I would be prepared to move that motion.

Mr. Speaker: Members of the House were apprised of my view earlier on the question of emergency which must be met under this Standing Order, and also some of my preliminary views about urgency. Therefore, I find that the conditions of Standing Order 31 have in fact been met.

I, therefore, ask the House if the Hon. Member has leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 31 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): No, because we are still discussing the matter by consent.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour please rise?

And more than five but less than twenty Members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: The Standing Order indicates that if 20 or more Members rise, consent is automatic. If more than five but fewer than twenty Members rise, I am required to call in the Members.

Therefore, call in the Members.

Before the taking of the vote:

Mr. Speaker: On a point of order, the President of the Privy Council.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the rules provide that if 20 Opposition Members do not rise then you have no alternative in this instance but to call in the Members. I have had an

opportunity of discussing with the Opposition Leaders the motion with respect to the adjournment of the House. I think you will find that there is a disposition by all Parties to have a debate on this matter commencing at eight o'clock tonight, and I would think under those circumstances we are quite prepared to proceed with the debate. If there is a disposition, since there is agreement to proceed with debate on this matter—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: If the Liberals insist on having a vote, that is fine, we are prepared to vote for the debate. Otherwise we can save the time of the House and get on with the business without a vote. If the Opposition wants a vote, Mr. Speaker, you may as well go ahead and call the question.

Mr. Speaker: On the same point of order, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner).

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain presented his motion with proper notice to Your Honour. After having properly considered the matter within the purview of Standing Order No. 31 of the Rules of the House of Commons you allowed him to seek leave.

The Hon. Member then rose to seek leave by unanimous consent which was refused by a voice from the Government side. That is the reason Your Honour rang the bells to convene the Hon. Members for a vote. That is perfectly clear. In other words, the Government side of the House by voice, requiring calling in of the Members, refused debate and in effect were overruling Your Honour allowing this emergency debate. If we want to talk about wasting the time of the House, the Hon. Members opposite and the House Leader brought it upon themselves by refusing the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain to present his motion for leave. We take the position, and since this goes to your authority in this House, we want a recorded vote to assure you that from all sides of the House you have the authority of the House and this debate should be allowed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. I fully appreciate the continuing devotion and support of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I take it that the President of the Privy Council is seeking to revert to the calling by the Chair as to whether there is consent that leave—order, please—I take it that that is what he was doing. I did not call for yeas and nays. I called for those who were in favour to rise, and fewer than 20 Members rose. That therefore precipitated the need for calling in the Members.

If the President of the Privy Council is suggesting that he is seeking that the House revert unanimously to calling verbally for those who support granting leave, I take it that consent for reversion has been refused. Is that correct?