

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 1, 1978

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1407)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

STOPFORTH CASE—TAXPAYERS PAYING DAMAGES AWARDED—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Having regard to the fact that the government has decided that the Canadian taxpayer shall pay the \$10,000 damages assessed by the court against the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) for having cruelly maligned, defamed and libelled Lawrence Stopforth, I move:

That this House condemns such action which means that the damages caused by the minister's gross wrongdoing is being imposed on taxpayers who are not responsible instead of being payable by the minister who was the wrongdoer.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact that the number of members of parliament is rapidly diminishing due to a frenzy of government appointments of unwanted Liberal MPs to positions in the judiciary, the civil service, Crown corporations and agencies, to the other place and possibly to the staff of the House of Commons itself, as well as to the consular and diplomatic corps, in view of the fact that there is increasing nervousness among Liberal backbenchers and cabinet ministers as to their prospects in the coming election, and the very real danger that the House of Commons quorum of 20 may be threatened if the election is long postponed, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) further importuned by worried

Liberals looking for a safe berth on the ship of state, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Hastings (Mr. Ellis):

That either the Prime Minister call the election immediately, before this House becomes vacant by attrition, or that he cease and desist from further patronage appointments of members of parliament who are now in danger of becoming an endangered species.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for New Westminster.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

TESTING OF HERBICIDE 2,4-D—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the U.S. environmental protection agency has found positive evidence that the herbicide 2,4-D is carcinogenic, in view of the fact that 2,4-D is a component of the herbicide Aqua 20 which requires an exemption from the federal government of label restrictions for use in waters normally under restriction, and in view of the fact that the British Columbia minister of the environment, Jim Nielsen, has stated that the provincial government still intends to use this potentially dangerous herbicide in the Okanagan Lake system this summer in spite of the reports from the U.S. environmental protection agency, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes):

That this House directs the minister of the environment to refuse the waiver of the label restrictions to the government of British Columbia until such time as full-scale testing is conducted to determine if the use of 2,4-D is safe.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

REQUEST GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER QUEBEC SALES TAX
PROPOSALS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to introduce a motion dealing with an urgent matter of pressing necessity.