

*Routine Proceedings***JUSTICE AND THE SOLICITOR GENERAL**

AUTHORIZATION FOR SUBCOMMITTEE TO TRAVEL

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I will try again.

I move:

That the Subcommittee on National Security of the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General be authorized to travel to Toronto for the period beginning Thursday, November 7 to Sunday, November 10 in order to participate in a conference on matters pertaining to national security and that the necessary staff, the Clerk and a research officer do accompany the committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

• (1540)

Mr. Cooper: On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker. We want to be certain that the members of the Bloc Quebecois understood that the motion we were trying to pass would send the subcommittee on human rights to visit a reserve in Quebec, the Akwesasne reserve. We just want to be certain that they understood that when they declined to give us unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lapierre: Exactly, Mr. Speaker. We knew this was another federal committee coming to interfere in Akwesasne, and we think Quebec is perfectly capable of looking after its own affairs. We don't need any interference by a federal committee.

[*English*]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to represent Akwesasne in this House. The reserve is partially in Ontario, partially in Quebec and partially in New York State. It is one of the areas of this country that needs our attention the most.

Shame on anyone who would not want members of Parliament to take care of the native people of Akwesasne. Shame on those people. I hope that you would seek unanimous consent again, Mr. Speaker, and that members who perhaps in a moment of ill thought could not figure this out will reconsider for the good of the native people living in the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. Those people who were afflicted a year ago with a terrible insurrection have been affected recently by a dispute between the Warrior Society and the band council in which homes were burned and much of the community was destroyed. Handicapped people and other disabled people in that community need us, whether they live on the Ontario side, the Quebec side or the New York side.

I would ask that our colleagues take that into account.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the comments of my friend and add that it is really unfortunate for the handicapped, not just on the Akwesasne reserve but in all of Canada. I gather this is a national conference which the committee wishes to attend to hear witnesses on the question of the disabled regarding the aboriginal community.

For individual members of this House, whether they call themselves Bloc Quebecois or whatever, to prevent that from occurring is utterly shameful.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member for Shefford. Would you like me to put the motion again?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that if hon. members are so committed to aboriginal matters, how come none of them came to see us about this meritorious trip? If they are so interested in aboriginal matters, why didn't they—

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. If there are going to be any further negotiations they will have to be conducted behind the curtain. If you want to come back and put the motion that is fine. I think we should carry on with the business of the day.