

Yukon Act

[English]

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

REGINA, SASK.—INQUIRY AS TO OPENING
OF COURT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. K. H. More (Regina City): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. I wonder whether the hon. lady could indicate if a date has been finalized for the opening of a citizenship court in Regina.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. As my hon. friend realizes, I do not yet have formal responsibility for citizenship. I share this responsibility with my hon. friend the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

YUKON ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING INDEMNITIES,
TRAVELLING EXPENSES, ETC.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-147, to amend the Yukon Act.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works) moved:

That the house do now proceed to the order appearing under private members' notice of motion No. 66 on today's order paper, resuming debate on the private members' motion proposed by Messrs. Byrne, Nugent, Scott (Danforth) and Stanbury, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Gauthier.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, I understand that this action is being taken under Standing Order No. 44, of course, and I can see no reason for detouring from Ottawa to the Yukon and then back in order to discuss a matter on the floor of this house. I believe Bill No. C-147 is worthy of consideration at this time and that we should proceed to the discussion of it.

An hon. Member: It is too late.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A motion has been made by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith). While the hon. member may feel this way, if he opposes the motion he can vote against it. The motion is now before the house.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, you have not indicated whether or not this motion was in order. I have no objection to a discussion on the death penalty, but I suggest we are now setting a

[Mr. Pepin.]

dangerous precedent in this house. How is this motion in order?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If any hon. members feel there is some difficulty about the motion they can certainly bring it to the attention of the Chair, and I will be glad to take their views into consideration. The hon. member for Lapointe.

● (3:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, once again, I have no objection to our discussing today and tomorrow that resolution about the abolition of the death penalty, but I find that we are creating a precedent by calling upon standing order 44 of the House of Commons which stipulates:

When a question is under debate, no motion is received unless to amend it; to postpone it to a day certain; for the previous question; for reading the orders of the day; for proceeding to another order—

It is under that standing order 44 that we are proceeding to another order and that we are asking to come back to that resolution dealing with the death penalty.

But, there is also standing order 18 which stipulates:

All items standing on the orders of the day, except government orders, shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the Order Paper.

That is according to the respective priority assigned to them on the order paper.

If I refer to today's order paper, resolution No. 66 is at the bottom. In my copy of *Hansard*, there is a page missing; the pages are mixed. Mr. Speaker, I apologize but there are five pages missing in my copy of the order paper.

Today, resolution No. 66 is at the very bottom of the private members' notices of motions.

I am speaking here as a private member who, at any time, can have a motion under the private members' notices of motions. Today, I am not trying to avoid a dangerous precedent; it will be possible at any time, at five o'clock or at five to five, to act in such a way as to avoid discussing a notice of motion or a private member's public bill and disregard standing order 18 by having us study bills and notices of motions other than those which should be studied according to the said standing order.