Mr. Speaker: Standing Order 43 requires unanimous consent for the presentation of such a motion for debate. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PROPOSAL TELESAT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN TRANS-CANADA TELEPHONE SYSTEM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the CRTC, the regulatory agency for telecommunications undertakings, has concluded that Telesat Canada's membership in the Trans-Canada telephone system would substantially prejudice the rate regulation process, and that the Liberal cabinet has overturned this CRTC decision thereby lessening public scrutiny and control over this important sector of the economy, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan):

That this House reaffirm CRTC decision 77-10 thereby nullifying the cabinet decision allowing Telesat Canada to join the Trans-Canada Telephone system and reaffirm the principle that this motion is in keeping with legislative principles adopted by the parliament of Canada in the Telesat Canada Act, the Broadcast Act and the Railway Act.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented at this time pursuant to Standing Order 43 only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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CRIMINAL CODE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF ADVERTISEMENT IN OTTAWA "JOURNAL" OFFERING ABORTIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In light of the promise of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) to investigate the May 9 advertisement in the Ottawa *Journal* advertising legal abortions on demand, and in view of the fact that these abortions take place in Montreal at a cost of $250 on a same day, no questions asked basis, and are in obvious and direct violation of the Criminal Code, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie):

That this House directs the Minister of Justice to make a statement on motions today outlining what actions have been taken in conjunction with the Ontario and Quebec ministers of justice and clearly indicate what charges have been laid.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

POWERS OF McDONALD COMMISSION INVESTIGATING ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Solicitor General whom I presume to be the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As we all know, the Prime Minister has consistently refused to appear before parliamentary committees. In that light, I would like to ask the Acting Solicitor General if it is the decision of the government of Canada that the McDonald Royal Commission shall have power to subpoena the Prime Minister and any present or former Solicitor General.

● (1417)

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the terms of reference of the McDonald Royal Commission which were tabled in the House in June that those terms of reference are sufficiently wide, as has been stated many times by the Solicitor General, for that inquiry to determine the facts in this whole matter.

POSSIBLE LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE IF MINISTERS SUBPOENAED BY McDONALD COMMISSION

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): I am surprised that the government is determined to keep the former minister so far from the Department of the Solicitor General. I rather wish it had been someone other than the acting minister who gave that reply, because then we might have got an answer.

My question now concerns a matter of policy—has the government decided whether the acting minister would answer a subpoena from the McDonald Royal Commission, and, if he did appear, whether there would be any limit placed on full disclosure of the role of the Prime Minister or any of his ministers on matters which are before the inquiry? I should like the Acting Prime Minister to tell the House of Commons whether any limits are to be placed on full disclosure by the Prime Minister or any of the ministers, and, if so, what those limits would be.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister): First, Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the Leader of the