

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 23, 1980

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH—IMPOSITION OF CLOSURE—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under Standing Order 43. One of the major reasons this dictatorial government has given for proceeding with its constitutional package is the need to entrench individual rights. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Erie (Mr. Fretz):

That the Minister of Justice be directed to make a statement to the House reconciling the avowed concern for rights, such as free speech, with the imposition of closure on those Canadians sitting in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

THE CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION—CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CLOSURE MOTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. As one of 25 British Columbian members of Parliament in this party who have not had an opportunity to speak on the constitution, and in view of the historic importance of this issue to members of my constituency and to the people of British Columbia, I move:

That the Prime Minister immediately retract this motion to muzzle the Parliament and people of Canada and instead allow full discussion, joined by members from all regions, on the constitution and in this debate.

An hon. Member: I will second it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

COMMUNICATIONS

SEIZURE OF EARTH STATION IN BURNABY, B.C.—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that the federal communications department yesterday swooped in and seized, without adequate warning, a satellite earth station in Burnaby, British Columbia, and in view of the fact that this action is selective and is a heavy-handed approach to enforcement of a law which was broken with impunity by British Columbia's science minister, Pat McGeer, for many weeks, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton):

That this House, while recognizing the importance of obeying federal laws and protecting the integrity of Canada's broadcasting system, deplores this arbitrary law enforcement action, and that there be no further police or court action, at least until the proposed government review of earth station licensing policy has been completed.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—ALLEGED INSULT BY PRIME MINISTER TO PREMIER—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Yesterday in a speech to the Quebec City Chamber of Commerce, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) admitted that he could not remember the name of the Premier of Prince Edward Island.

An hon. Member: Shameful.

Mr. McMillan: It should thus not be a surprise to anyone that the Prime Minister seems unaware of the extent to which his constitutional amending formula discriminates outrageous-