

*Oil Spill into Athabasca River*

As the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications may well wish to study this report I suggest, if the House agrees, that the report be referred to the committee today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Winnipeg North rising on motions?

**Mr. Orlikow:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** My understanding of the proposed motion of the Postmaster General is that it referred to the tabling of a document and this, of course, is not subject to debate. I have to rule that there is no debate on the statement or on the action proposed by the Postmaster General.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Mr. Speaker, I have another motion I should like to move.

[Later:]

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Minister of Communications suggested that the subject matter of the report tabled by him today might, with unanimous consent of the House, be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications. I wonder if we might ascertain whether there would be unanimous consent to such an order?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Is this under Standing Order 43?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I gather it is not under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The President of the Privy Council as Government House Leader seeks the unanimous consent of the House to proceed as suggested by the Minister of Communications. Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Apparently there is not unanimity. The motion cannot be proceeded with as suggested by the minister.

**POLLUTION**

OIL SPILL INTO ATHABASCA RIVER—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to move a motion of a type with which Your Honour is now familiar. My proposal motion is made pursuant to [Mr. Kierans.]

Standing Order 43 and I ask unanimous consent to move the motion under these circumstances.

The oil spill into the Athabasca River has now reached epic and dangerous proportions. It is now backing up into the Peace River, will be entering the Slave River and may well go into Great Slave Lake. At this time of year the flood waters in the area of the confluence of these rivers are very substantial.

In view of what has happened and the fears that have arisen, and in view of the fact that additional pipelines to be constructed in the north are now under contemplation, I think this matter should be one for immediate inquiry. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken), the following motion, to which I ask for the unanimous consent of the House:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government of Canada and the government of Alberta should immediately discuss the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the question of the oil spill in the Athabasca River; the adequacy of the means taken to deal with the damage and the establishment of proper safeguards and precautions against any repetition of this disastrous pollution.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Peace River. By the terms of Standing Order 43 this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Therefore the Chair has to inquire whether there is such unanimity.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Since there is not unanimity the motion cannot be moved at this time.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

RATE INCREASE REQUESTED BY BELL CANADA—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask the House to agree to a motion regarding Bell Canada. Bell Canada has made a request to the Canadian Transport Commission for a new increase in telephone rates of 6½ per cent. This follows the increase of last fall which gave Bell increased revenues of \$27.5 million.

Bell Canada has surpassed the 6.8 per cent maximum rate of return permitted by the Canadian Transport Commission and is now averaging over 7 per cent return on its investment. Bell has been working closely