

S.O. 43

That this House notes with pride and affirms the concepts and principles of confederation and of the nature of the federal system upheld so firmly and clearly in Newfoundland today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Does the House give unanimous consent to this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE CONSTITUTION

RULING BY SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND ON
CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, today is the thirty-second anniversary of the dominion of Newfoundland becoming a province of Canada. It is not without coincidence that the Appeal Division of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland at twelve o'clock today brought down a unanimous ruling upholding the position of six provinces on the government's joint constitutional resolution now before the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: I quote very briefly from a part of the unanimous judgment of the court.

The framers of the British North America Act decided in their wisdom that Canada should not be in a unitary state, but a federal one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: The quotation goes on:

● (1410)

Canada, however, could in effect be converted into a unitary state if that act could be amended simply at the request of the Canadian Parliament without the concurrence of the provinces.

I therefore move, with the unanimous consent of the House, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie):

That in view of the decision of the Newfoundland Supreme Court upholding the position of the provinces, that the government withdraw forthwith the joint constitutional resolution now before the House, until the Supreme Court of Canada brings down its decision.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

SUGGESTED DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL
RESOLUTION—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of today's unanimous decision of the Newfoundland Supreme Court against the federal process and proposals relating to the constitutional resolution now before the House, and in view of recent remarks on the television program Question Period by the Hon. Robert Stanfield, one of Canada's most serious and highly respected political statesmen, when he said the Trudeau package is a "constitutional *coup d'état*", I move, seconded by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Corbett):

That the government forthwith delay any further consideration of the constitutional resolution until the Supreme Court of Canada, which is now seized of the matter, has had an opportunity to decide whether the rule of law or the Prime Minister's rule shall prevail in this country.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR SPEEDY INTERVENTION BY GOVERNMENT IN
DISPUTE BETWEEN CORPORATION AND JOURNALISTS' UNION—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with a most important matter.

Since it is urgent to settle the conflict which has been crippling for too long the French and English news services of the CBC and considering the importance of the election campaign now under way in Quebec, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant):

That the House condemn the uncompromising attitude of the CBC authorities and that the Ministers of Communications and Labour intervene as soon as possible and ask the president of the CBC to resume negotiations and find quickly a solution to that conflict which is depriving Quebecers and other Canadians of essential information.

Madam Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.