

● (1500)

### PETITION

MR. SKELLY—RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition of this House in which a group of individuals feel their right of assembly, which is guaranteed under the Constitution, is being denied. It is their concern that individuals involved with the Government of Canada have failed to provide them with a permit to carry through an assembly in which they wish to protest Canada's involvement with the Cruise missile. It would be the wish of the petitioners to have a permit in order that they be allowed to assemble and demonstrate against Government policy concerning the testing of the American cruise missile in Canada.

\* \* \*

### PRIVILEGE

MR. STEVENS—NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUESTION TO BE RAISED

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, I would like to give immediate notice of a question of privilege that I hope to raise later this afternoon.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. If the Hon. Member wants to raise a question of privilege, notice must not be given in the House but given in writing to the Speaker.

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, the reason I rise now, as I understand the procedure, is that if the question of privilege arises during Question Period it is in order to give you notice from the floor of the House. That is what I was attempting to do.

My question of privilege arises from the answer given by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) which confirms our suspicions that the House is now faced with inconsistent figures with respect to the Minister's expenditures and deficits. Various assumptions are wrongly presented in the documents that have been tabled. In short, I find it very difficult to see how Members of this House can proceed to have a meaningful budget debate when, in fact, we do not know what are the exact figures which the Minister of Finance in due course is going to be putting before us.

What I was suggesting, Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** Very well. That kind of question of privilege does not require any notice. The Hon. Member just rises from his seat and raises the question of privilege by saying that it follows from the deliberations and proceedings of the day. If the Hon. Member has a question of privilege later on, or now, that type of question of privilege will be heard.

**Mr. Stevens:** If I may continue, Madam Speaker, my question of privilege, as I said, arises from the response given by the Minister of Finance in that while we felt there were

### *Privilege—Mr. Stevens*

inconsistencies, I put my question to the Minister feeling that he may have some ready explanation. In due course we may be getting an explanation from the Minister of Finance. I felt that in order to preserve the question of privilege, if I gave you notice now I could in turn suggest that we hear the two formal replies to the budget, one from my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney), and one from the representative of the New Democratic Party. Thus we give the Minister of Finance an opportunity to check where the inconsistencies are and in due course I will proceed formally with my question of privilege.

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, under the Standing Orders it would appear to me that my colleague, the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens), has given you the required notice and is suggesting a course of action which will not interfere with the normal budget debate yet give the Minister of Finance an opportunity to check his figures. I would suggest the proposal made by my colleague is most sensible, and suits the orderly procession of the business of the House.

**Madam Speaker:** Nobody thinks it is not sensible. There was no question of changing the normal course of events. We are all prepared to listen to the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney) and those who want to follow in the debate on the budget. At any point at which the Hon. Member for York-Peel feels that he must raise a question of privilege, he can rise and do so. If it is pursuant to the deliberations of the day, he can just rise from his seat and present his question of privilege. It does not require notice. However, I think events will follow their course this afternoon.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, as you have said before, the Standing Orders provide that a question of privilege shall be raised as soon as possible after the incident from which it arose. However, if a question of privilege or an alleged question of privilege arises from oral question period, the first opportunity is not after two speeches or even later in the afternoon, but immediately following oral question period. If the Hon. Member wishes to raise at some other time a question of privilege arising from oral question period, he will have to give proper notice and raise his question after oral question period on the following day, and not after two or three speeches or later today, unless the question of privilege arises from those speeches. However, if he wishes to raise a question of privilege arising from a reply to a question during oral question period, he should not raise it two hours later but right now. Otherwise, he should give proper notice and raise the question tomorrow. I have no objection to the Hon. Member giving the House notice that he will probably be raising a question of privilege later on, but certainly not right in the middle of debate.