

Petitions

I submit that when a Minister uses a document to supply information in replying to a question in the House, the use of that document cannot be construed as an attempt to influence debate. This view is supported by a ruling given by one of my predecessors, Mr. Speaker Jerome, on April 8, 1976, when he said that:

Reference to a document has never been held to apply to a situation in which a Minister has simply been asked a question about a document and given an answer.

The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain alleged in making his point of order that the Minister cited the memorandum, and I quote the Hon. Member:

—in an effort to influence the debate which is presently taking place in the House of Commons and also to influence the public of Canada in believing that the reference to which he referred was of little consequence.

He went on to say that the questions directed to the Minister were, and I quote:

—very much a part of the ongoing debate in public terms over the relevance and import of the economic statement of the Minister of Finance.

It seems to me that when a Minister is specifically questioned about a document and he refers to that document in the course of his reply, it would be difficult to find that he was attempting to influence debate. Furthermore, Beauchesne's Citation 327(5) applies only to debate in the House and not to debate in the country at large. Using a document to influence the public and using a document to influence debate during debate in the House of Commons are not the same thing, and the authority of the Chair cannot be exercised in relation to the former.

Given all of these circumstances, therefore, I must rule that the Minister is not compelled to lay this particular memorandum on the table unless he chooses to do so.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

CALL FOR REINSTATEMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present to this House a petition from residents of Leeds-Grenville and elsewhere in Ontario who call upon this House to reinstate capital punishment as a penalty for murder, and to introduce the legislation as quickly as possible.

DEREGULATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to present a petition to this House on behalf of a number of my constituents from Prince Albert who ask Parliament to reject any proposals in the deregulation of Canada's telephone service. These Canadians are satisfied with the

current telephone service and feel that deregulation would result in poorer and costlier service.

Therefore, the undersigned call upon this Parliament to stop deregulation of the telephone services.

INCOME TAX ACT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from a number of citizens of Spadina and other parts of Toronto requesting this House to change the Income Tax Act for 1985 so that large corporations will receive tax breaks such as they have received in the past only in proportion to the number of new jobs they have created, and that the number of new jobs created by each corporation, and the tax breaks it receives, will be reported quarterly to Parliament.

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CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT RESPECTING GUN CONTROL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-205, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (gun control).

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Member shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, during recent months we have had some tragic, violent murders in Canada, many committed with the use of firearms. The purpose of this Bill is to strengthen our gun control laws. It is well documented that those states with stricter gun laws have fewer crimes committed with guns. This is a measure to prevent violent crime before it takes place and not after the fact.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Tuesday, November 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Ken James for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 38).

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate you on your election to your high office, and also for keeping a close watch on us during Question Period. I would also like to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. May I make particular mention of the