

## POINT OF ORDER

### ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS DURING ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Speaker:** Some time ago I was asked by the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) to provide a ruling to the House with regard to petitions. For reasons outside his control and mine, there was a delay in the presentation of this ruling.

The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond raised a point of order on March 28, 1985 during Routine Proceedings, concerning the time of the presentation of petitions, namely, that Members should be able to present petitions at any time after Oral Questions and before the Introduction of Bills. Thereby, the waiting time between the end of the Question Period and the presentation of petitions would be greatly shortened. The Hon. Member was concerned about occasions when Ministers make statements and Members who wish to present petitions have to wait for lengthy periods of time. Standing Order 71(2) reads as follows:

Any Member desiring to present a petition in his or her place in the House must do so during Routine Proceedings and before Introduction of Bills.

In our practice, the expression “. . . before Introduction of Bills” has been understood to mean immediately before the Introduction of Bills. This is easy to verify in the proceedings of the House since 1980. Before that, since the number of petitions presented was small, the time of presentation never caused any inconvenience to Members. A search of the records of the House has found no ruling on this subject.

I suggest that the Committee on the Reform of the House of Commons or the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization might look at the matter. In the meantime, Members who cannot be in the House for the presentation of petitions can always present their petitions by filing them with the Clerk of the House, as stated in Standing Order 71(1); which reads:

A petition to the House may be presented by a Member at any time during the sitting of the House by filing the same with the Clerk of the House.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

### PETITIONS

#### SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to present a petition from 28 residents of St-Bernardin, Ontario, and members of the senior citizens club of that area protesting against the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 which the Secretary of State for External Affairs

### *Petitions*

refused to hear this morning when stated by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart).

Mr. Speaker, I also have another petition signed by residents of Alexandria in my constituency. They want to express their disagreement about the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 and demand that allowances be paid to needy people between 60 and 64 years of age.

I also have another petition, Mr. Speaker, signed by 22 residents and members of the Union culturelle d'Alfred and those people also reject the discriminatory clauses of Bill C-26 and they demand that the government take the necessary steps to apply the legislation to all needy individuals between 60 and 64 years of age.

[*English*]

I also have a petition signed by 19 people of the village of Alfred. They request that the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 be corrected forthwith so as to permit all needy people between 60 and 64 years of age to receive benefits.

I also have a petition signed by 22 residents of the village of St. Albert, Ontario, in my riding, who wish to express their displeasure with the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26, and the effect these provisions will have on the people of our area.

I have one final petition signed by 29 residents of Alfred, Ontario, and they are once again protesting the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 which deny benefits to single, divorced and separated people between the ages of 60 and 64. They ask that the Government immediately correct these discriminatory provisions.

### NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present on behalf of a number of residents of Vancouver, Delta, Clearwater, White Rock and North Vancouver a petition calling upon Parliament, and particularly the Minister responsible for Canada Post, to intervene in order to ensure that the National Postal Museum is retained; to find a new location near Parliament if it has to move from 180 Wellington; and to ensure that its staff continue to serve the public in their present capacity.

[*Translation*]

### MODERATELY-PRICED FAMILY HOUSING

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec East):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House a petition from my constituents of Québec-East. It includes 709 names collected by the Regroupement des citoyens et citoyennes de Ville-Vanier and demand the construction of low-cost housing units for families.

I will personally deliver a copy of that file to the minister responsible so that he may take action.