

of the House. I do not rule on that nor do any of the assistants in the Chair rule on it.

**Mr. Gamble:** Madam Speaker, I was making those remarks in a preliminary fashion. I do not have the "blues" for today and I did not really intend to deal with the merits of the issue, but I think if you will check the "blues"—I am rising now because I did not want to give notice as the issue happened today—I think you will find that in the course of making observations, the Chair ruled what the business of the House was to be. The business of the House was to be Bill C-155. Those, I think you will find, are the exact words used by the Chair this morning. My question of privilege however—

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry, I cannot let that go by. The Chair quoted what the business of the House was to be, but it did not rule on what would be the business of the House. The Chair cannot rule on that.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It did.

**Madam Speaker:** I should like to know what the question of privilege of the Hon. Member is. I have listened for quite a while and I still do not know.

**Mr. Gamble:** Quite frankly, the question of privilege is the most basic privilege which a Member of Parliament can have, and that is, the right to be heard without prejudice as to what the Member of Parliament is going to say. I have stood in my place time and time again to make an observation by way of point of order that I was not permitted to make.

I understand the Chair may hear a number of Members on a particular point or order and may in fact come to a conclusion that he or she has heard enough, but I can tell you what I do not understand. I do not understand how anyone occupying the chair can decide that the nature of the intervention of any Member is for a dilatory purpose. That was exactly the kind of comment we heard from the Chair this morning. I make these remarks without intentionally reflecting on the Chair.

I ask, Madam Speaker, at this point, how does the Chair determine, before even hearing a Member stand and utter the first word, the nature of his intervention? Is it by the colour of his tie? Surely not. Surely some recognition must be made of the fact that there may be points that should be contributed to a discussion with respect to a point of order which is legitimately raised in connection with the conduct of the business of this House, a matter on which other Members are entitled to make remarks. I did not have that as a right, and I consider that to be a very serious question of privilege. It is a question which goes to my right as a Member of Parliament. It is as fundamental as my right to come into the House. That is my question of privilege, Madam Speaker.

● (1540)

**Madam Speaker:** I was not in the House and I will have to look at the "blues" and the report in *Hansard*. I just cannot make any sense out of what the Hon. Member is now saying because I cannot refer to the actual comments which were

### Petitions

made in the House. I am just making this reservation, that there has been a ruling by the Chair on what the Hon. Member is referring to. Of course, I will not reverse that ruling. The Hon. Member is shaking his head. He said he would not ask me to do that. Of course, I would not even want to attempt to look at a ruling if, by so doing, that would indicate that any Hon. Member can reflect on a ruling made by the Chair.

There is a possibility of objecting formally to a ruling of the Chair, and that is open to the Hon. Member if he wants to do so. However, once it is made, Hon. Members may not reflect on a ruling of the Chair. If that is the thrust of what the Hon. Member has just been saying, I cannot judge it because I have to look at it in the context of the debate which took place at that time. I will look at it and I will come back to the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Gamble:** Madam Speaker, my purpose was not to reflect upon the ruling of the Chair. My purpose was to draw to the attention of the Chair the fact that the Chair reflects upon the opinions of Hon. Members before they have had an opportunity to speak. That is the issue which will be made very apparent to the Speaker when she examines those "blues". I will be very grateful if she will examine them and get back to the House.

**Madam Speaker:** I will do that.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

**Madam Speaker:** Presenting reports from standing and special committees.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Did you say Petitions?

**Madam Speaker:** No, I said, "Presenting reports from standing and special committees." Tabling of documents. If the Hon. Member has a petition, we are just coming to it. Statements by Ministers. Petitions. The Hon. Member for Yukon.

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### PETITIONS

MR. NIELSEN—IMPACT OF LEGISLATION ON PLACER MINERS IN YUKON

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, I have a petition from the undersigned residents of Canada, primarily residents of Yukon, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefor provide a remedy, and humbly sheweth that the survival of the Yukon placer miners is threatened by