

received by the House of Commons. It says that when that petition has been received, as it has been received, and when it is examined by yourself and, in fact, you find that it does involve a case of privilege, my personal privilege to read it, then in fact it should be taken into account. It is a different procedure which I have not previously brought to your attention. It is isolated from the other two. I would therefore ask Your Honour to rule on the basis of Citation 698(2).

**Madam Speaker:** I did rule on that previously at the request of the hon. member. Petitions in the House are dealt with subject to the usages and practices of the House. The discretion to which the hon. member refers has never been resorted to except by unanimous consent of the House.

If the hon. member is asking me to change this custom and usage in the House, I say to him that I will not change it unless a discussion takes place between the leaders of the parties in the House and they include that new practice in the usages of the House. The petition has been received but not read because the hon. member has not received unanimous consent for that. I repeat, it has been received. I said that it conforms as to form, as to what is required to present a petition, but I am afraid that ends the procedures which the hon. member can invoke at this time.

● (1510)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Second report of Special Joint Committee on Official Languages in both official languages—Mr. Corbin.

[*English*]

#### REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS— PRESENTATION OF TENTH REPORT

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present the tenth report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments in both official languages.

[*Editor's Note: For above report see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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## PETITIONS

### MR. GILCHRIST—PROPOSED INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES

**Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East):** Madam Speaker, I have a duty to present a petition on behalf of my constituents. The purpose of this petition, which is signed by

## Petitions

642 concerned citizens of Scarborough East, is to protest in the strongest possible way the 76½ per cent increase in postal rates from 17 cents to 30 cents which is said to be forthcoming immediately when there is absolutely no improvement in postal delivery, nor of any guarantee of continuity of postal service against strike action offered by the Post Office.

The nature of the petition is to demand that the postal rate increase be put off until the aforementioned conditions have been met and greater postal efficiency is achieved by the new Crown corporation. If the need for an increase is proven, then the rate increase should be much lower than 13 cents. It is hoped, in your examination of their petition, Madam Speaker, that you will find it in order and that you will understand and sympathize with the concern of the petitioners for the grievous distress caused by the much too large increase, which will add to the already intolerable cost of living increase being borne today by all Canadian citizens, especially senior citizens. I personally applaud their initiative in bringing this important matter to Parliament's attention.

### MR. DANTZER—PROPOSED INCREASE IN POSTAL RATE

**Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North):** I also have a petition, signed by 152 residents of Enderby, British Columbia. It is to indicate to the government that the proposed postal rate increase is outrageous and it will affect most low-income families and those on fixed incomes. The nature of the petition is to register with the government the concern of these citizens and to demand rejection of the proposed increase.

### MR. WENMAN—EFFECTS OF HIGH INTEREST RATES

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** I have the duty and responsibility to present more petitions on behalf of 414 constituents. The nature of this petition is to protest against the high interest rate policy of the government. It is especially burdensome to home owners and those on low and fixed incomes. The purpose of this petition is to demand changes to the policy so that home-owning citizens get the equitable treatment they deserve. They ask that interest rates be reduced and that either mortgage interest rates be made a tax deduction or that limits be placed on mortgage interest increases upon renewal. Their concern about this matter remains unabated, Madam Speaker, because nothing has been done by this irresponsible government to protect and uphold the basic right of home ownership for Canadian citizens and to alleviate this despicable situation. The petitioners hope, Madam Speaker, that in your examination—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The matter of presenting a petition should not be the occasion to make a speech on the subject. The only thing that hon. members can do is to tell the House what the subject matter of the petition is and to make a statement as to the subject matter of the petition, and that is all. Members are really abusing the amount of time they are allowed to take in presenting petitions.