

Point of Order—Mr. Heap

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I am very honoured today to rise in the House under Standing Order 36 to present a petition supporting the victims of violence. My petition represents signatures of 1,267 residents from across Canada who call upon the Government for tougher laws under the criminal justice system.

• (1120)

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE ORCHESTRA

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add to the already hundreds of people who have pleaded with the House to pay close attention to what is going on with the National Arts Centre orchestra, a world-class orchestra which has brought fame to Canada and its capital city. I would remind Hon. Members that the orchestra was created at the instance of the House and belongs to the people of Canada.

Whereas we believe that the National Arts Centre orchestra is in imminent danger of being damaged or even destroyed, and whereas we consider the present management to have proved itself to be incompetent and inadequate in artistic matters, the undersigned add their names, and ask that as a matter of priority, we ensure that the National Arts Centre maintain its orchestra at its current size and present standard of excellence, and they wish that we ensure that sound cultural credentials be the main criteria for any new appointments to the National Arts Centre board of trustees.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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POINT OF ORDER

CLARIFICATION OF STANDING ORDER 57

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I would ask your assistance in clarifying a point concerning

what happens at the closing of debate under closure, Standing Order 57, which says that no Member shall rise to speak after one o'clock.

Last night, I rose to speak at about two or three minutes to one with the understanding that under that Standing Order, I would be able to complete my 20 minutes. Some of the rowdies on the Government side were yelling time, time, time. The Speaker caught my eye and was making wind-up motions with his hands, so I asked him how much time have I left. He did not answer me but he spread his hands as much as to say, you know, no more. So foolishly, I sat down rather than force him to stand up and answer my question.

I would like a clarification for myself and for others who may be debating close to the one o'clock hour during closure as to whether it is correct to interpret that as meaning that I could have finished and should have been told by the Speaker that I could finish my 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: First, I want to thank the Hon. Member for Trinity—Spadina (Mr. Heap) for letting the Chair have notice of this matter. I have, as I am sure others have, looked at *Hansard* and what the Hon. Member for Trinity—Spadina relates does not show up in *Hansard*. However, I have made inquiries this morning and I understand that the question asked by the Hon. Member for Trinity—Spadina with respect to whether he had more time or not does come through on the tape.

The point the Hon. Member makes is an important one. I would ask his co-operation to let the Chair consider the matter, and I will report back very quickly with respect to the situation.

I also want to point out to Hon. Members that I thank the Hon. Member for Trinity—Spadina for the way he has put his point of order. He is asking for clarification, and I am grateful that he is not putting the Chair in the position of having to contemplate whether or not the vote that followed is invalid. I think I can advise Hon. Members that the vote would have to stand, but I appreciate the way the Hon. Member has put the point of order, and I will come back very shortly with clarification.