

Introduction of Bills

Friesen	Layton	Schellenberger
Gass	Lesick	(Wetaskiwin)
Gormley	Lewis	Scowen
Gottselig	Lopez	Siddon
Graham	Malone	Sparrow
Gray	Martin	Stackhouse
(Bonaventure—Îles-de-	Masse	Stevens
la-Madeleine)	Mazankowski	Stewart
Greenaway	McCrossan	Tardif
Gustafson	McKenzie	(Charlesbourg)
Halliday	Moore	Taylor
Hamelin	Nicholson	Thacker
Hawkes	(Niagara Falls)	Towers
Horner	Nickerson	Tremblay
Hudon	Ostrom	(Québec-Est)
Jacques	Pennock	Tupper
James	Peterson	Turner
Jardine	Pietz	(Ottawa—Carleton)
Jepson	Porter	Van De Walle
Johnson	Price	Yankoughnet
(Bonavista—Trinity—	Redway	Vincent
Conception)	Reid	Weiner
Kempling	Reimer	White
Kindy	St. Germain	Winegard—107
King	Schellenberger	
Landry	(Nanaimo—Alberni)	
Lawrence		

NAYS

Members

Allmand	Guilbault	Murphy
Althouse	(Saint-Jacques)	Nystrom
Angus	Heap	Ouellet
Axworthy	Henderson	Parry
Benjamin	Hopkins	Penner
Boudria	Hovdebo	Prud'homme
de Corneille	Johnston	Riis
Dingwall	(Saint-Henri—	Robichaud
Finestone	Westmount)	Robinson
Foster	Killens	Rodriguez
Fulton	Langdon	Rossi
Gagliano	Lapierre	Skelly
Garneau	McCurdy	Turner
Gauthier	McDonald	(Vancouver Quadra)—39
Gray	(Broadview—	
(Windsor West)	Greenwood)	

● (1740)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with regard to the vote. One of my colleagues told me that he did not hear my name called when I rose to vote against the motion. I would just like to confirm that my vote was recorded.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is very grateful that the Hon. Member has brought that to the attention of the House. I am sure it will be treated accordingly. The Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) has the floor.

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission—Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the House for allowing me to introduce my Bill in this very unique way.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. St. Germain: I would now like to move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis):

That the House proceed to the next item of Routine Proceedings.

Mr. Gauthier: Point of order, point of order!

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will of course hear the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order. I might remark that so did everyone else at about 1,000 yards of this place.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make sure that you heard me this time. The Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) was recognized, by a vote, to make a short statement on why he intends to present this Bill to the House. That was the only purpose of his being recognized at this time. Once he has spoken to that Bill, we in the House will decide in a very democratic fashion whether or not that Bill will be read the first time and printed. That will be the object of the next dilatory motion for the Government will put to the House, to wit, whether or not the House will agree to read and print the Bill. That is a non-debatable stage of the Bill, and I cannot see anything else before the House at this time but the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody giving us a very short, concise statement as to why he believes the Bill should be put to us for first reading.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, since we have established that an Hon. Member rising on Petitions, once recognized by the Chair, may move a motion to move to the next item of Routine Proceedings, it seems to me that we can establish the same principle under Introduction of Bills.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to add to the point made by my hon. colleague that if this practice is to continue, the Government, on its whim, will be able to prohibit Hon. Members from rising to deal with the long established tradition of presenting petitions on behalf of their constituents. What we have seen today is something extremely dangerous to the traditions of the House. Every citizen of Canada has the opportunity, through his or her Member of Parliament, to have his or her views made known through the presentation of petitions in the House of Commons.

I believe we are at a very critical point here. Will the Conservative Government use this on a regular basis to prohibit the people of Canada from exercising a right that has been theirs for decades? I ask that this matter be given serious consideration. It appears that there is a serious potential for abuse. For many, many years, this has not been allowed. Hon. Members may present petitions and after they have done so, they have the opportunity to move a motion, but they do not have an opportunity to move a motion without presenting a petition. I think this is a very serious situation and we ought to be very careful when dealing with this issue.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Chair can assist in the debate. I will hear from other Hon. Members. The position of the Chair—though the Chair is not unsympathetic to the concern expressed—is that the Chair must ask if Routine Proceedings have any particular sanctity at all or if they can always be left