

that I will not do it again. Nevertheless, as a member I think I have the right to make a point.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I thought of that. Nowhere in the Standing Orders is it written that a member may not express himself in verse. However, I was basing my comment on the fact that there is a certain form which has traditionally been used for motions under Standing Order 43. When the hon. member has to bend what he wants to express through his motion in order to satisfy the need to verse, sometimes the House breaks into laughter and obviously we get the message that the hon. member is really trying to speak in verse rather than propose a motion under Standing Order 43.

It is, however, a good point and I will look at it. I do not think that anywhere in the Standing Orders does it state that members may not express themselves in verse. A motion under Standing Order 43 must be put in earnest. The hon. member must move something that is meaningful in order to fulfil the requirements of a motion under Standing Order 43.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ACT

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT—CORRECTION OF ERROR

Mr. Doug Frith (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I would like to indicate that an error was contained in the original document tabled in the House on Friday, October 30 of this year. Recommendation 35 subparagraphs (1), (3), (4) and (6) should read recommendation 35, subparagraphs (2), (4), (5) and (7), which I am pleased to table herewith in both official languages.

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PETITIONS

MISS MacDONALD—CUTBACKS IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCING

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I wish to present a petition signed by 1,852 students from Queen's University and St. Lawrence College in the constituency of Kingston and the Islands. These students are gravely worried about the threat posed to their future and to the development of our human resources by the proposed financial reduction to their institutions of higher learning by the federal government. They took collective action last Thursday to protest any cutback of this federal contribution.

Introduction of Bills

MR. WENMAN—EFFECTS OF HIGH MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, I have the duty to present a petition on behalf of my constituents. The purpose of this petition, signed by another 466 citizens in the greater Vancouver area, is to indicate to the government that the mortgage interest crisis that is forcing them out of their homes and into dire straits is continuing unabated.

The nature of the petition is to demand that in the forthcoming budget the government lower interest rates, allow mortgage interest to become income tax deductible and to allow and encourage the vast reserves of capital available through RRSPs, pensions and other large blocks of government money to be made available to the mortgage market.

The petitioners hope, Madam Speaker, that in your examination of their petition you will find the petition in order, sense the urgency and desperation of their plea and that you might use the discretionary powers vested in your office to allow discussion and referral to committee at the earliest possible moment.

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SENATE OF CANADA REFORM ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE STRUCTURAL REFORM

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-640, to provide for structural reform of the Senate of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Yurko: Madam Speaker, I thought my seatmate was going to second the motion rather than the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro). Nevertheless, you have indicated that somebody did second the bill.

This bill is intended to highlight the fact that the first order of business of the Parliament of Canada after the patriation of the Constitution is Senate reform. It is intended to provide representation in Parliament of the national interests, regional interests and provincial interests by structuring the Senate of 150 senatorial chairs to relate to the national interest, by providing 30 senatorial chairs for each region of Canada and permitting five of the senatorial chairs to be filled by provincial appointments for each province. Furthermore, the bill is structured to provide the Senate body and each individual member with stability, continuity, accountability, legitimacy and independence, maintaining the power of the Senate as it exists today.

I hope that at some future time I will have the opportunity to discuss in much more detail the structure of this bill as it relates to the national interests, the regional interests, the provincial interests and to a much more meaningful role of the Senate of Canada in this nation in the years to come.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.