

Point of Order—Mr. McKnight

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I will take the request of the Hon. Member under serious consideration. With respect to the election of the committee chairman, as I said earlier, I will not get involved. That is the responsibility of the members of the committee and I am sure that Hon. Members are responsible enough to make a judicious choice of a successor to the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) who has tendered his resignation as committee chairman.

[English]

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, will the Government House Leader allow the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier to stay on the committee, and will he and the Government majority allow that person to remain as chairman?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I answered that question during the Oral Question Period.

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[English]

POINTS OF ORDER**MR. DOMM—PROCEDURE RESPECTING PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, the procedure followed in this House for presenting petitions has been questioned by a Minister. It is my understanding that when a petition is collected and given to a Member of Parliament to present on behalf of the constituents who signed or printed their names on the petition, it is not the responsibility of the Member who presents the petition to verify every signature on the petition. During Question Period today the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) made the statement that a petition was presented which you, as Speaker of this House, examined and accepted and reported that it was found to be in order. The Minister has questioned your judgment.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the Hon. Member is very conscious of the fact that he is debating this question. I did examine the petition and declared to the House that it was in order as to form. That is the limit of the speaker's duty. Whatever other members' opinions are on that particular petition belongs to them. It can be debated in the House, and possibly will be, but it is not a point of order.

MR. MCKNIGHT—S.O. 43 MOTION OF MR. DE JONG

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, my point of order arises out of a motion under Standing Order 43 presented by the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) yesterday and the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) today. It would appear that the

national interest implicit in those Standing Orders is that Gretta de Jong was the campaign manager for Mr. Van Mulligan; and is it in the national interest that when the Hon. Member for Regina East goes back to Regina, he stay with Mr. Van Mulligan? Is that why it is—

Madam Speaker: Order. Is that a point of order? It is a great point of debate but not very much a point of order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PENSIONS**TABLING OF GREEN PAPER ON PENSIONS AND TWO RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I am pleased to table in my name and on behalf of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), in both official languages, the Green Paper on Pensions entitled "Better Pensions for Canadians", along with two related documents, "Focus on Women" and "Highlights".

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[English]

PETITION**MR. HALLIDAY—GENERAL DISARMAMENT**

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Madam Speaker, it is an honour today to present to the House a petition signed by 1,088 residents of Oxford County and the surrounding area. The petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to negotiate and implement, with other Governments, the balanced steps that will lead to the earliest possible achievement of general disarmament, and in particular, nuclear disarmament.

Dr. Tom Mayberry of Ingersoll, Ontario, has been the driving force behind this petition, working hard to amass these many signatures and giving the issue of disarmament a high profile in Oxford County.

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● (1510)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,127, 4,348 and 4,473.