

### POINT OF ORDER

#### MR. DINGWALL—ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS DURING ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the presentation of petitions, I have read the Standing Orders, particularly Standing Order 18 with regard to the Routine Proceedings of the House. Nowhere do I find in Standing Order 18 any mention of when petitions ought to be placed before the House of Commons.

However, I have read Beauchesne as well as Standing Order 71(2) which states:

(2) Any Member desiring to present a petition in his or her place in the House must do so during Routine Proceedings and before Introduction of Bills.

As I mentioned to you in a briefing session yesterday, the purpose of my point of order is that we all know that petitions are rather short and expeditious and Members can rise and present them very quickly. It does not take up too much time of the House.

**Mr. Dick:** You are taking up time now.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Perhaps the Hon. Member would be kind enough to extend the courtesy of allowing me to make my point of order. If he disagrees, he can rise in his place and, with his usual persuasive candour, dispute what I have to say. Perhaps he would have the courtesy to wait.

**Mr. Dick:** Why don't you get to the point then?

**Mr. Dingwall:** Perhaps the Hon. Member will have the courtesy to listen.

**Mr. Rossi:** Okay, blabber-mouth.

**Mr. Dick:** You have taken three minutes already.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suspect that the Member has a serious point of order and I would like to hear it.

**Mr. Dingwall:** I am glad that you have ruled in my favour, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the time when petitions are presented during routine business, it would seem to me that probably it would be in the best interest of the House for them to be called before Statements by Ministers.

Today, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) made a very important statement and there were Hon. Members here to participate. However, other Members who wished to present petitions have had to wait for an hour or an hour and a half before getting to that fairly routine piece of business of presenting their petitions.

Would the Chair say if there was a ruling by a previous Speaker or by yourself as to why petitions are called after Statements by Ministers in the routine business?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member raised this matter with me privately. I must advise the Hon. Member and the House that I have not completed my investigation. Certainly, no ruling has

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been made by myself, and while I am awaiting further information, it is my understanding that the rule regarding petitions, according to Standing Order 71(2), has been interpreted in the past to mean that they are to come exactly and immediately before Introduction of Bills. For example, that is why the Order Paper and our instructions to the Chair show that place.

I appreciate the Hon. Member's concern. I will certainly gather further information. Since there appears to be a question of interpretation, I will be more than happy to discuss that matter with the House Leaders.

**Mr. Dingwall:** In terms of clarification, there is mention of petitions in the Standing Orders but there is no mention of petitions in the Orders of the Day. Is there a special reason for that?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not in the printed Order Paper because it is not in the Standing Orders. However, if the Hon. Member looks at the Projected Order of Business that is sent to Members, he will find petitions listed, because that is our practice. It is listed between Statements by Ministers and Introduction of Bills.

I repeat that as far as I know, and without being definite, that is a question of tradition, not of the rules.

As I indicated, I will be more than happy to get further information and discuss it with the House Leaders because I take it that at least one Member is concerned about the order in which petitions are placed in the daily routine of business.

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### PETITIONS

#### OMISSION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS IN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition, signed by many concerned constituents of the riding of London East, regarding the oversight and omission of property rights in the Charter. It is my pleasure to present this petition today on their behalf.

#### IMPACT OF CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of some of my constituents in the riding of Sarnia-Lambton who are concerned about the proposed changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act. They ask that more emphasis be placed on job creation and not on a restructuring of the Unemployment Insurance Act.