

*Routine Proceedings*

the occasional signature of a non-Canadian not resident in Canada.

Such signatures would not, of course, be counted among the 25 signatures which a petition must contain in order to be certified. I therefore rule the petition which the hon. member for Kamloops intended to present on Tuesday, December 18, duly certified and presented to the House. I must thank the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell for bringing this matter to the attention of the Chair.

\* \* \*

[*Translation*]

### PRIVILEGE

#### PROCEDURE FOR TABLING MOTIONS

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have to raise this question of privilege now, because we will not have the opportunity to do so for quite some time.

During the course of this sitting, especially at the motions stage, I shouted “no” at the top of my lungs every time the parliamentary secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House asked if there was unanimous consent to table motions for which notice was not given.

Mr. Speaker, our Standing Orders are very clear on this subject. Not only have you heard me say no but, each time, you declared: “Agreed on division.”

• (1620)

This means not everybody said “yes”. A couple of minutes ago, I checked with the Table and was told that nobody heard me.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time. So I would make a request: either you have a loudspeaker installed or you provide hearing aids to the Table officers and to the people who occupy the Chair from time to time. It was obvious to every witness in this House that the parliamentary secretary did not get unanimous consent to table his motions.

Mr. Speaker, I can only shout as loud as my lungs will allow me. If the acoustics of this room is defective and if the sitting arrangement is not right, that is your respons-

ability, Mr. Speaker. It was your decision to line us up against the curtains.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that there have been several instances of hearing problems on your part. I do not wish to give you any advice, but this is a real problem because sometimes you heard us and sometimes you turned a deaf ear today. I for one, Mr. Speaker,—

[*English*]

**An hon. member:** On the same point of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The same point of privilege.

**Mr. Cooper:** Are you going to let him speak?

**An hon. member:** Yes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Go ahead.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, he is not a minister, so you can allow me to finish.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that I feel my privileges were infringed upon by your deafness and that of the Table officers. I therefore request a major remedy, if not by our Standing Orders, at least for your ears!

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, I am very much intrigued by the hon. member’s understanding of the rules and his insistence that this House act upon those rules.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Chair that one of the longstanding practices of this House has been first, that we pass a motion to allow committees to report when the House is adjourned and second, it is also a longstanding practice that this House approve committee travel when committees of this House choose to travel around the country.

I should also remind the hon. member that it is equally a convention that questions during Question Period are given largely to that side of the House, with a very small number going to the backbench on this side. However, it is not a rule. It is simply a tradition or a convention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to keep in mind when the Chair rules on this point of privilege the behaviour that we have seen demonstrated by the hon. member this afternoon which has caused a great deal of frustration, not simply to this side of the House, but to every member-