

The petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Bonavista-Trinity-Conception (Mr. Johnson) and the Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall), by filing with the Clerk of the House, also meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### CHRISTMAS DECORATION OF PARLIAMENTARY HALLS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I understand that you have responsibility for all the accoutrements in the House of Commons. For the last 12 days the halls were decorated very beautifully. It certainly added to the Christmas spirit around here and, by the way, it cost taxpayers \$18,000 to decorate the halls. However, this morning I came along and everything has been removed—the red carpet, the Christmas trees and the lights. Does this have anything to do with the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) entertained last night, or is it that the Grits stole Christmas?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. The statement period was from 11 to 11.15 o'clock.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

#### EXCISE TAX ACT AND RELATED ACTS

##### PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Bill C-80, I have the honour to report the Bill with amendments, in both official languages.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[Translation]

#### PETITIONS

##### FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table two petitions from residents in the riding of Saint-Maurice who strenuously object to de-indexing of family allowances. As you know, pressure is increasing in this area. For instance, this morning we read in the papers that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has once again asked the Government to withdraw this Bill.

#### Petitions

I would like to table a third petition, this one from the people of Shawinigan South, and another one from the people of Shawinigan and Grand'Mère, asking the Government to stop this legislation which will have a very negative effect, especially on single-parent families, and emphasizing that Canadians want to keep the present system which is fair to all families in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to table these two petitions on behalf of the people of Saint-Maurice.

[English]

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions which I would like to bring to the attention of the House. The first group of petitions is signed by Canadians who are expressing their concern about the accelerating cut-backs in child benefits reaching \$600 million annually by 1990. They call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of the universal family allowance and to rescind the unfair tax increases. The petitioners are principally from Ontario, communities such as Lakefield.

I assume that my second petition will meet the requirements of the Standing Orders. Some people did not include their addresses, but it is a petition called "Operation Justice". The petitioners ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) particularly to reinstate full indexation to the family allowance and the child tax credit, because they feel that the tens of millions of dollars which will be taken away will harm families.

I have another petition which is principally from residents of British Columbia.

**Mr. Boudria:** Name them.

**Mr. Fulton:** Well, they are principally from North Vancouver, Burnaby and other areas of the province. They are concerned, as well, that the accelerating cut-backs in child benefits will take \$600 million away from children by 1990. The petitioners also call for the reinstatement of full indexation of the universal family allowance and for the Government to rescind its unfair tax increases.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present. They call upon the House of Commons to reinstate fully the family allowance and child tax credit. The petitions have been signed by people in the communities of Downsview and Scarborough, Ontario, as well as people in the communities of Parson's Pond and Portland Creek, Newfoundland. They pray that the House of Commons will reinstate full indexation of the universal family allowance and will rescind the unfair tax measures which the Government is contemplating.

[Translation]

##### POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF CN MONCTON SHOPS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, workers at the CN Moncton shops are continuing their efforts to make the Government understand their concern about the