Oral Questions

deaths of 84 workers, most of them Canadian. If that happened in any other situation that would be considered a mass murder. I ask the Prime Minister when will his Government provide legislative protection under the Labour Code for workers who work on those rigs?

• (1500)

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I reject parts of the premise of the Hon. Member's question, but I want to assure him that we on this side of the House are as concerned as anyone else about the importance of the matter. We urge the Opposition to help us in processing and passing the legislation that is before the House so as to conclude this session and initiate the next one, so that we can introduce the amendments, to the Canada Labour Code. We are as anxious to produce them as anybody else.

Mr. Murphy: You are responsible. You are a bloody murderer.

Some Hon. Members: Oh. oh!

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw.

Madam Speaker: Order. I have just consulted the list and I have to ask the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) to withdraw those words. I did hear them, even from this distance. I am sure the Hon. Member got caught up in the heat of the debate and did not really mean those words. Perhaps he would like to withdraw them.

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, out of respect for the rules of the House, I won't call it murder, but I will call it manslaughter.

Some Hon. Members: Oh. oh!

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw.

Madam Speaker: Order. I am sorry, but the Hon. Member has to satisfy the rules, which I can see he is quite willing to do, and must withdraw that particular word.

Mr. Murphy: Madam Speaker, I do not know what word can be used in this House, but the Government must act. We have been waiting for three years. I am willing to withdraw the specific accusation, but not the general charge of misconduct by this Government.

Some Hon. Members: Out!

Madam Speaker: I will accept this today because the Hon. Member did withdraw that particular word, but I want to remind Hon. Members that there is the material fact of pronouncing certain words which has to be dealt with. There is also the spirit behind the rules which means that Members should respect each other during debate. To use a circumstance like this to make a further charge like this is not quite proper. Strictly speaking, it is not unparliamentary, but it is not really proper. However, I will accept what the Hon. Member said.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, February 8, 1983 and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

PRIVILEGE

MR. CAMPBELL (CARDIGAN)—UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE OF MR. WADDELL

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I gave notice on Monday of my intention to raise a question of privilege on the first occasion on which the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) was in his seat.

I refer to comments made by the Hon. Member last Thursday during my absence from the House; I apologize for waiting so long. However, this is the first occasion which I have had to raise this question of privilege. It has to do with comments made in this House by the Hon. Member on Thursday last, reported in *Hansard* at page 22481. During his comments, the Hon. Member is reported to have said:

I am alleging that the Minister intentionally misled the House—

That is not only untrue but it is unparliamentary language. I would request through you, Madam Speaker, that the Hon. Member withdraw those comments.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Waddell: Do Government Members want to give me my chance to reply or do they want to shout me down? If they want to act like a bunch of fascists, then we are going to treat them that way. I am not replying, Madam Speaker, until I get some order.

Madam Speaker: I just checked because I could not believe what I heard; that word too is unparliamentary. The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) has quite a problem; he has to withdraw two expressions.

Mr. Waddell: I am prepared to withdraw the word "fascists" providing the Members opposite let me make my reply to the Minister without interrupting me.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member had the floor. He could speak on the matter raised by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Campbell). There were a few jibes from the other side of the House, but that usually does not deter Members from speaking in the House. They were not that loud that