

## PETITIONS

### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition today signed by numerous residents of the Ottawa area.

The petitioners are concerned about the excessively high gas prices that are prevalent in this area, higher than other parts of southern Ontario. They call on Parliament to urge the government to correct this injustice to Ottawa area motorists, and I may say that many Kingston area motorists share their concern.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, when you asked for consent for the questions to be allowed to stand, I had risen on a point of order on that issue, hoping that the government, perhaps through the chief Whip, would respond.

I have four questions on the Order Paper. Three have been there for periods much longer than 45 days, some of them up to about five months. We are not entitled to have more than four questions on the Order Paper. I cannot get any answers any more because I cannot put new questions on the Order Paper. So I am effectively paralyzed in my ability to do my work in terms of asking written questions.

I want to ask the government when it intends to follow the Standing Orders of the House and provide answers to those questions. I recognize that the Whip probably cannot give a full answer right now. I would be satisfied with a commitment on his part that he will do his best to ensure that the Standing Orders are followed by those responsible.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, we take a lot of credit for changing the Standing Orders so this particular submission could be made. I would like to point out to the House that our record in answering questions is infinitely better than any system which existed prior to the present one.

He is correct that I am not familiar with his particular four questions. I do know from the time I was parliamentary secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister that frequently there is difficulty because questions are so complex. They involve more than one department and a very heavy expenditure of money to procure the kind of answers that members are after, and it is simply not possible if too many departments are involved to answer in 45 days.

## Government Orders

I have suggested to members that if they would cut down on the size of their questions it would be very helpful in getting speedy answers. I do not know if that is the situation in this case, but I will undertake to ask the parliamentary secretary to look into the matter and to report back to the House at the earliest opportunity.

\* \* \*

## THE ROYAL ASSENT

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Rideau Hall  
Ottawa

February 28, 1992

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Peter de C. Cory, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 28th day of February, 1992, at 1 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith A. LaRocque,  
Secretary to the Governor General.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1992-93

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-61, an act to provide borrowing authority for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1992, be read the second time and referred to Legislative Committee E.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, my remarks will, of course, be addressed to the matter before us, that is the budget brought in by the present government for the next fiscal year.

The first thing I would like to do is deal with some anomalies in the budget, perhaps unintentioned by the government, but nonetheless I think we should pay attention to them.

For some time now, the leader of my party has been calling for a review of the loopholes for business expenses such as lunches and other allegedly important business dealings that have still not been sealed in the