

Halifax Inshore Fishing

Mr. THORSON: What rule?

Mr. FINN: I am speaking under motions. I am not going to be cross-fired at by hon. members on this side of the house. It is all very well for them, living inland among the oats and hay and barley. If the hon. member is not able to look up the rule for himself I am not his clerk.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): May I draw the attention of my hon. friend to the rule—paragraph 7 under standing order 68:

On the next day following the presentation of the petition the clerk of the house shall lay upon the table the report of the clerk of petitions upon the petitions presented and such report shall be printed in the votes and proceedings of that day. Every petition so reported upon, not containing matter in breach of the privileges of this house and which, according to the rules or practice of this house, can be received, shall then be deemed to be permitted to be read and received.

In the first instance the petition should be merely presented. After it has been examined and a report has been made upon it, is the time when it will be known if the petition may be read and received.

Mr. BENNETT: It is presented first without comment.

Mr. FINN: If that is the stand of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), I am content.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. FINN: Has this assembly, this parliament, this House of Commons become accustomed to some rules other than the rules of the house? It is too bad that I seem to be in conflict with you, Mr. Speaker, so often. It is not my desire, but this is a very important matter to the people of my county.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I have already explained to the hon. member how petitions are presented, and the right hon. Prime Minister has quoted the rule:

Petitions may be either written or printed, provided always that when there are three or more petitioners the signatures of at least three petitioners shall be subscribed on the sheet containing the prayer of the petition.

The next paragraph states:

On the next day following the presentation of the petition the clerk of the house shall lay upon the table the report of the clerk of petitions upon the petitions presented and such report shall be printed in the votes and proceedings of that day.

I think it is competent for the hon. member to present his petition, and then it will appear in the records of the house.

[Mr. Finn.]

Mr. NEILL: May I speak to the point of order. At page 209 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, citation 731 provides:

Every member offering to present a petition to the house, not being a petition for a private bill, or relating to a private bill before the house, shall confine himself to a statement of the parties from whom it comes, of the number of signatures attached to it, and of the material allegations contained in it, and to the reading of the prayer of such petition.

The hon. member would be within the rules if he now read the prayer of the petition, which apparently is what he wants to do.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): He has not asked for permission to do that.

Mr. FINN: I shall read this:

We, the undersigned, have assisted in circulating the attached petition and in securing the signatures which appear on the original petition of which this is a copy. The original petition has been forwarded to the Honourable, the Minister of Fisheries at Ottawa.

Dated April 30th, 1938.

Matthew Boutlier, Mushaboom.
Jacob H. Josey, Spry Bay.
Stanford Josey, Spry Harbour.
Fulton Butler, Pleasant Harbour.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. FINN: These are not the names on the petition; this is conclusive evidence, before I lay the petition on the table of the house, that these are the fishermen from East and West Halifax who have interested themselves in going around, seeing the fishermen and ascertaining their views. Then I shall read this:

We, the undersigned, engaged in the inshore fishing industry in Halifax East, urge immediate reconsideration by government, of trawler licensing. Conditions in the fishing industry along this shore, definitely will not permit the addition of further burdens, if we and our families are to live. We believe the reissuing of trawler licences is a direct blow to any hopes we had for a betterment of our conditions this year. We respectfully request that immediate reconsideration be given to the licensing of trawlers, as, unless such licences are cancelled at once, it means an increase in unemployment and depressed prices which we cannot face.

We call upon our representatives in the senate, parliament and local legislature to stand by us at this time.

April 30th, 1938.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES

PROVISION FOR WIDENING OF CAUSES FOR DIVORCE IN CASES BEFORE COURTS

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre) moved the first reading of Bill No. 119, respecting divorce and matrimonial causes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.