

Routine Proceedings

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The chairman of the committee has asked the Chair if he could be recognized to respond to that problem. It might solve the whole thing.

Hon. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I cannot let that go by.

Yes, as chairman, I have asked the opposition critics whether they wish to proceed with this afternoon's meeting. They have said they wish to. I have advised them, and I think it is entirely proper to advise them, that I have been advised by ministers that under the circumstances they may be compelled to be at other places in these circumstances.

I would assume from what was said last night in this House that, if ministers advise us under the circumstances that are before us in this terrible crisis they may have other obligations at a specific moment in time, we would be understanding in this crisis.

Mr. Speaker: I know hon. members will realize that this is not a matter in which the Chair can intervene, at least not at this point.

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• (1120)

PETITIONS

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of petitioners who point out that most of the nations involved in the UN coalition are not involved with offensive actions against Iraq or Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

The petitioners are calling upon Parliament to use all its ability possible to encourage the government to not continue to commit Canadian Armed Forces to an offensive action.

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I also would like to present a petition today signed by a large number of individuals at a peace demonstration in Powell River on the weekend.

The petitioners ask that the Canadian Armed Forces not be involved in the war in Iraq. They point out that the Prime Minister, in committing the armed forces, enjoys the opposition of 88 per cent of Canadians. The

majority of Canadians do not want this action undertaken. The government should adhere to the wishes of Canadians and have the troops removed from the theatre.

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by several hundred people representing, I am sure, millions of Canadians who are appalled by the action that we are currently engaged in.

The petitioners call for Canada to continue to use its forces to enforce the sanctions which the UN had declared, to declare its absolute commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict, and to oppose any military action against Kuwait.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and obligation to present on behalf of petitioners from the Fraser Valley a petition which calls upon Parliament to implement the results of the equal pay study and end wage discrimination in the federal Public Service.

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have to present a petition from a number of Canadians who lay out quite a lengthy list of suggestions. Essentially, they are calling upon Parliament to declare its absolute commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured once again to rise in the House, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition from the constituents of Kent.

As a last ditch effort, the petitioners humbly pray that the government axes the dastardly GST tax.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 282 and 431.