

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. SKELLY—OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition in light of the tragic events surrounding the sinking of the *Ocean Ranger*. Basically, the petition asks that a committee of the House of Commons be struck to monitor and provide appropriate information to legislators and to the public on activities relating to the exploration and development of offshore drilling that will take place over the next two decades in Canada.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. BAKER (NEPEAN-CARLETON)—TABLING OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES—RULING OF MADAM SPEAKER

Madam Speaker: I see the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) is still in his seat and I am now in a position to rule on the point of order he raised last Friday concerning the fact that a document tabled the Thursday, February 10, 1983 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) was not deemed referred to a Committee of the House.

Standing Order 46(1) stipulates that returns, reports or other papers can be laid before the House in accordance with an Act of Parliament or in pursuance of any resolution or Standing Order of this House.

In addition, Standing Order 46(2) provides that a Minister may table any report or other paper dealing with a matter coming within the administrative responsibilities of the Government. As stated in Citation 379(2) of Beauchesne, these papers may be laid before the House voluntarily.

Let me now quote Standing Order 46(4) as follows:

Reports, returns or other papers laid before the House in accordance with an Act of Parliament shall thereupon be deemed to have been permanently referred to the Committee designated by the Member tabling the report, return or paper.

During the debate on this point of order I indicated how I would read that paragraph but I decided to read it again privately and meditate on it. The key words are "in accordance with an Act of Parliament".

In the case before us, the tabling of the document was not required by an Act of Parliament, but it was tabled on the initiative of the Minister as provided in Standing Order 46(2). I must rule that the document in question does not come under the purview of Standing Order 46(4) and, therefore, there is no point of order.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, thank you for clarifying the matter. I see that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) is still in the House. He will

Borrowing Authority

recall he indicated that, notwithstanding whatever ruling was made by the Chair, the Chair having reserved, he was going to speak with the Government House Leader to see whether or not, as a matter of policy, those documents would be referred. Has the Deputy Prime Minister done that, and can he report to the House now?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Madam Speaker, I regret I have not had an opportunity to have the kind of discussion I would like to have with the Government House Leader, but I will do so very soon.

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[Translation]

SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT,
1982-83 (NO. 3)

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-143, to provide supplementary borrowing authority, be read the first time.

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: All those in favour, please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Madam Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Madam Speaker: In my opinion, the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Madam Speaker: Call in the Members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Lalonde) which was agreed to on the following division:

(Division No. 296)

YEAS

Messrs.

Appolloni (Mrs.)	Bossy	Comtois
Axworthy	Breau	Corbin
Bachand	Burghardt	Cosgrove
Baker	Bussi�eres	C��t�� (Mrs.)
(Gander-Twillingate)	Caccia	Cousineau
B��gin (Miss)	Campbell	Cullen
Berger	(Cardigan)	Cyr
Blaker	Ch��nier	Daudlin
Bloomfield	Chr��tien	Dawson
Bockstael	Collenette	De Ban��