

Privilege—Mr. Simmons

from both sides of the House who had risen subsequently to me. What happened today is part of a consistent—

Madam Speaker: I am sorry, please. The Chair is the sole judge of who will be recognized at any time. How can the Hon. Member—and can he prove it to me—say that several Members did not rise at the same time? At any rate, it is still the privilege of the Chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Simmons: Madam Speaker, on a matter of privilege—

Madam Speaker: Presenting reports from Standing and Special Committees.

Mr. Simmons: On a matter of privilege—

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's on a new matter of privilege?

Mr. Simmons: I said "On a matter of privilege", Madam Speaker. I have not been allowed to state my matter of privilege. That in itself is an abuse of the rules—

Madam Speaker: Order, order. I think the Hon. Member knows that he is presently abusing the rules—

Mr. Simmons: As is the Chair.

Mr. Nielsen: Withdraw!

Madam Speaker: He has stated his case, the Chair has ruled on his case, and I have suggested that he might transform it into a point of order but he refused to do so. The Hon. Member does not have a question of privilege. He should read the definition of privilege very carefully, and he will realize that he does not have a question of privilege.

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, on a point of order, I wish to draw to your attention and to the attention of the House that during your recent remarks, when you suggested that the Member was abusing the rules of the House, the Hon. Member for Burin-St. George's (Mr. Simmons) said "And so is the Chair", or something similar. I would ask him to withdraw those remarks.

Madam Speaker: Well, I did not hear the Hon. Member say those words.

Mr. Nielsen: *Hansard* did.

Madam Speaker: I will ask him if he did say those words, and if he did say them, of course he will have to withdraw them. I did not hear them, but I will ask the Hon. Member to tell me on his honour whether or not he said them.

Mr. Simmons: Madam Speaker, I believe very deeply that in this matter the Chair abused the rules, and I said so. However, if the Chair finds that statement of my belief to be in unparliamentary terms, then I withdraw without equivocation. But you cannot hang me for what I am thinking.

● (1220)

Mr. Wilson: Shame.

Madam Speaker: Of course, in the strict sense that is acceptable. I do feel the words of the Hon. Member were unparliamentary. In a strict sense he has withdrawn them. I cannot help but say the way in which he has withdrawn them with regard to the Chair is really with a great lack of courtesy.

Mr. Nielsen: It is disgraceful.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

MR. MITGES—PAYMENTS TO MACDONALD COMMISSION OFFICERS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, I am happy to present a petition today on behalf of constituents of Grey-Simcoe concerning their strong opposition to the gross overpayment of officers of the Macdonald Commission during this time of economic restraint.

The petitioners state that when this Government asked all Canadians to tighten their belts and to define their priorities, the Government should have been the first one to set a good example. The petitioners are very concerned, as I believe all Canadians are concerned, by this Government granting astronomical salaries to those individuals who are earning far more than perhaps 99 per cent of all Canadians.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 4,429 and 4,511.

[*Text*]

OIL AND GAS FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS

Question No. 4,429—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

1. Under the oil and gas exploration and development foreign aid programs financed by CIDA or Petro-Canada International, what criteria are used for selecting recipient countries and what conditions are attached to the aid provided?

2. Have the funds been used by foreign countries to hire oil companies other than Petro-Canada International and, if so, which companies were hired, by whom were they hired and at what cost?

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Canadian Interna-