

Petitions

hundreds of my constituents who are calling upon the federal government not to co-operate in any way in the construction of prison facilities on the Oakalla lands in Burnaby and to ensure that the government lives up to its previous promises to remove completely all correctional facilities from the Oakalla lands.

MR. CROSBIE—YUGOSLAVIA—PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by 29,277 citizens of Canada who are deeply concerned about the plight of seven prisoners of conscience now being held by the government of Yugoslavia in defiance of that country's obligations—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please remove that basket from his desk. I have never seen a petition presented in a basket with an inscription on it.

Mr. Crosbie: —in defiance of that country's obligations under the Helsinki Final Act to which it is a signatory. The seven individuals named in this petition have been recognized as prisoners of conscience not only by Amnesty International but also by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacGuigan), who has referred to them as "classical cases of dissidents". Therefore, the petition asks the House to urge the Government of Canada to make representations to the government of Yugoslavia in order to obtain the early release of these seven individuals.

I have the petition here, and there are so many names I am afraid the petition had to be put into a basket.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am not able to accept that.

Mr. Crosbie: You can pick them up by hand if you want.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member can present his petition in the usual way. If we allow this, we will have all sorts of things being exhibited in the House.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Just so that we may be clear on this question, I take it your ruling is not to be construed in such a way as to deny the right of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) to represent—

Mr. Campbell (LaSalle): Sit down, Joe.

Mr. Clark: I am sorry I am being shouted at by hon. members across the floor who do not want to have the views of some 29,000 Canadians on this question of prisoners of conscience heard.

I take it, Madam Speaker, you are not ruling in such a way as to prevent—

Mr. Cousineau: You are not fair at all.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Clark: I am sorry, Madam Speaker, but the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Cousineau) is continuing his

harassment, and I wonder whether he is against petitions by Canadians. I hope that the Chair's ruling does not deny the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) the right to submit his petition in any form he likes.

[*English*]

Madam Speaker: Of course not. This is quite elementary. Petitions are to be presented in the usual form. In the case of this particular petition it is quite obvious that it can be carried in the usual way. If I allow a basket or anything else, someone might bring in a petition in a baby carriage.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Hon. members must know that decorum in this House is a necessity. I do not understand how on one word from the Speaker it can be taken that a petition is not accepted.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, have you made a ruling that this petition is not accepted?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cousineau: You are worse than Joe.

Mr. Crosbie: If you have, I certainly want to object. If you have not, fine.

Mr. Cousineau: You and Joe should jump into the basket.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, have you ruled that this petition is not acceptable?

Madam Speaker: Of course not. The Speaker just receives petitions, and that is why I have not pronounced a word about the petition except to disallow the display.

Introduction of bills. The hon. member for Victoria.

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to limit the extraordinary discretion of the Treasury Board under the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act to reduce radically the pensions of Canadian forces personnel on the basis of—

Madam Speaker: Order. I am a bit confused. I have had no notice of this bill. I do not think the hon. member is following the proper procedure. Do we have notice of this bill?

Mr. McKinnon: Madam Speaker, I submitted copies to the Clerk of the House this morning.

Madam Speaker: Forty-eight hours' notice is required, and we will receive the bill when the hon. member satisfies the procedure.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)