

Petitions

the ridings because there are several, and they like to be considered individually instead of being lumped together.

As you know, this concerns the tax credit and family allowances. The petitions are from our friends, a lot of people from the riding of Sherbrooke.

I also have the honour of tabling a petition addressed to the Prime Minister by the riding of Saint-Denis, and one by Mrs. Marthe Fréchette, in charge of the Comité culturel of the well-known Cercle des fermières d'Ahuntsic, making the same request; I have a strong petition from the riding of Château-guay on the same topic, namely family allowances and the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has given me the privilege of presenting one of her petitions from the riding of Mount-Royal, for which I thank her, and I know that she herself will have another one later on from my riding. Mr. Speaker, we also have a petition on the same subject from the federal riding of Abitibi.

Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise that people as energetic and well-informed as the residents of the riding of Laval should also be very keen on having a petition presented on their behalf and on the same subject. And from the riding of Brome-Missisquoi, I think this is very important, since—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I ask the Hon. Member to be very brief in continuing with his petitions?

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: It is important.

Mr. Prud'homme: I do not know how I can be any briefer, I am saying they are on the same subject. Mr. Speaker, since the formula is that the petitioners "humbly call upon the Chair", I would rather not say: "Here is a pile of petitions, that's it". There has to be a limit. If we expect petitioners to declare something humbly, I think it should be done with dignity, and that is what I am doing.

From the riding of Northumberland-Miramichi, a petition along the same lines. From many people of various Toronto ridings, yours included, Mr. Speaker, we have a similar petition. From the riding of Huron-Bruce, from the riding of—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: May I invite the Hon. Member to simply file the rest of his petition with the Table?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to present a petition concerning family allowances and the child tax credit. You know, Mr. Speaker, a lot of people in my riding have asked me to present this petition on their behalf. I have several others which I present together, they come from my riding. And then, of course, hundreds of people

from Vancouver Centre have asked me . . . They have a problem and I think they have asked us to look into it. Residents of the Ottawa region—certainly not Ottawa-Vanier, the other Ottawa ridings—did not have an opportunity to tell us about their concerns. People from Halifax have also asked me to present this petition to you, Mr. Speaker.

Naturally, the people of Nickel Belt have grave concerns about family allowances, Mr. Speaker. They have asked me to convey them to you.

My colleague from Sudbury (Mr. Frith) is out of the House for the moment, but he did ask me to present a petition from his constituents who feel exactly the same way and expect you to understand their problem, Mr. Speaker.

Then the people of Prince George who want us to present their petition.

• (1630)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: May I invite the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) to conclude as briefly as possible, please?

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I agree with you, but those people went to the trouble of having the petition signed by their neighbours, they deserve and have the right . . . I could read the whole formula.

Mr. Speaker, one here from residents of Ontario. A petition which has been circulated, and another one from the region of Sudbury urging you to give every consideration to their request.

Mr. Speaker, I have so many of them, and I know it is an important issue. More people from Sudbury who have asked us . . . Mr. Speaker, just so you will not lose patience—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: May I advise the Hon. Member that of course he knows that simply filing the rest of the petitions with the Table has exactly the same effect?

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: On several occasions, Mr. Speaker, you have . . . and I think you have every right to advise the House of the way we should proceed, because I do not understand. Canadians—

An Hon. Member: —men and women!

Mr. Prud'homme: Yes, Canadian men and women, as my hon. colleague has just said, have an ancient right. Should we say immediately: Mr. Speaker—