

Order Paper Questions

Limoges, Embrun, Bourget, Apple Hill, Green Valley, Glen Robertson, Alexandria, Russell, Clarence Creek, Saint-Bernardin, Dalkeith, Dunvegan, l'Orignal, Hammond, Rockland and Wendover in the riding which I have the honour and privilege to represent.

RIDEAU HALL—PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO GROUNDS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the duty to present a petition that is in accordance with Standing Order 106. The undersigned, residents of Canada, now prevail themselves of their right to present a grievance against the decision to close Rideau Hall made by the National Capital Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Office of the Governor General, without prior notice. The closure of this attractive and tranquil park affects thousands of visitors to the capital from across the country who held Canada's uniquely accessible Rideau Hall as a symbol of the trust, openness and democracy of which Canadians are so justly proud. And the area residents from the entire National Capital Region who have used and enjoyed the grounds of Rideau Hall, recognizing the security concerns that prompted the closure decision, cannot accept a blanket closure of the 20-acre park to public access. Wherefore, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to open the decision for consultation with a group of citizens, representative of the large and growing opposition, in order that a *modus vivendi* can be created that would satisfy the Government and the public.

● (1120)

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106. In this petition people from Norway House, Snow Lake, The Pas, Churchill, Flin Flon and Thompson, Manitoba, express their concern about the Government's intention to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs. They believe this measure will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They also believe that it will hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. In their petition they also state that they believe that this is yet another example of the Canadian Government making concessions to the United States at the expense of average Canadians in the free trade negotiations.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the Hon. Member might be good enough to give us the date

of certification of the petition and the name of the Member who presented it for certification.

Mr. Murphy: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. The name of the person who asked for the petition to be certified is Rod Murphy, which you may have guessed from the fact that all the communities listed on the petition are from the federal riding of Churchill. I believe the petition was certified according to the regulations by the Clerk of Petitions on January 6 of this year. I do not know whether or not the petition went to the Government House Leader for ratification.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. If we cannot trust Members of Parliament to present petitions in this House in their proper form and in the proper manner, then why does the Parliamentary Secretary get up each time and ask Hon. Members to identify who gave it authorization, who signed it and under what authority? I think that a gentleman's trust is involved here. Hon. Members must trust other Hon. Members in this House.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I can only say to my hon. colleague that the reason for the question I ask will unfold with the passage of time.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all the questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not disagree with the request of the Parliamentary Secretary. However, in the vein of questions he has been asking members of the Opposition lately, can he tell the House the date for the question which the Government has yet to provide an answer and has been on the Order Paper the longest?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is not sure whether or not the Parliamentary Secretary can answer such a question. Perhaps the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) and the Parliamentary Secretary can discuss the matter in their own time.

Shall all the questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.