

Privilege—Mr. Crosby

raising a question of privilege about because the same information should normally have satisfied a member of the bar. Before lawyers make charges, usually they do not refuse to look at the evidence.

Mr. Jarvis: That is a pretty shabby explanation.

Madam Speaker: I will rule on that particular question of privilege later.

Mr. Crosby: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Will you give me an opportunity to respond to the minister's allegations?

Madam Speaker: No, I am afraid I cannot. Hon. members speak only once on a question of privilege. They cannot use a point of order to respond. I have heard the two presentations. I will read the arguments very carefully and rule on that question later.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): There are two points on the point of order about which I seek clarification, Madam Speaker. Naturally it is within your discretion as to the number of members you hear and for what length of time you wish to hear representations on questions of privilege. But likewise, there is no standing order or practice that prevents members from speaking more than once on a question of privilege if the Chair wishes to hear them.

The second point is necessary because you said it so quickly that I did not hear. Are you reserving on the question of privilege or are you going to deal with it later this day?

Madam Speaker: The first point in answer to the hon. member for the Yukon is that no other member got up to seek the floor on this question of privilege except the hon. member for Halifax West, who rose and said he had a point of order. He stated that his point of order was to refute or rebut what the hon. minister said, to which I replied that could not be done.

Mr. Nielsen: It can if you allow it.

Madam Speaker: I am not saying that I would have heard a great number of other speakers, but no one rose. There is no problem there.

Second, I said that I would deal later on with this question of privilege.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I do not question your ruling at all. I simply point out that it is in the Chair's discretion as to whether or not the same member raising the question of privilege might be heard again. There is no rule against that, but if the Chair does not want to hear it, naturally that is at the Chair's discretion.

When you say that you are going to deal with the question of privilege later, Madam Speaker, does that mean later this day or on another sitting day?

Mr. Axworthy: Later.

Madam Speaker: On another day. I think the practice, though I stand to be corrected, is that members who raise a question of privilege are not allowed to speak a second time on the question of privilege.

An hon. Member: No.

Madam Speaker: It is a practice I have followed, at any rate.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

MR. DOMM—IMPOSITION OF METRIC SYSTEM

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure to present a petition from the residents of the federal riding of Kootenay West, British Columbia, who now avail themselves of their right to present a grievance common to petitioners in the certain assurance that this honourable House will therefore provide a remedy. These petitioners bring to over 200,000 the number of people who oppose the mandatory imposition of the SI metric system in Canada. We believe the pace, degree and nature of change to SI metric should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sectors of trade and industry by the individual firms or industries directly concerned, and with minimal government interference.

MR. EPP—RECONSIDERATION OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition signed by approximately 1,000 constituents from the riding of Provencher. The signatories are residents of many small communities in eastern Manitoba.

Your petitioners oppose the provisions of Bill C-451 and bring it to the attention of yourself and the House.

* * *

CANADIAN FORCES SUPERANNUATION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PENSIONS OF PERSONNEL DISCHARGED FOR MISCONDUCT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-658, to amend the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (retirement for misconduct).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. McKinnon: 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 substantially pensions of Canadian Forces personnel who have