

*Petitions**[English]*

Mr. Cooper: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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THANKSGIVING

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, if I may just quickly bootleg to wish you, your family, the members of the table, the staff who serve this House and my other colleagues in this House a very happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Speaker: I must say I am touched by those remarks. I thank the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Of course, the Opposition supports this initiative, and we also wish you, Mr. Speaker, your family, the Clerk at the Table and his family, and all the pages and members of your staff who help us in the House, a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps a motion of adjournment is in order.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I have two applications. First, I will hear the hon. member for Kamloops.

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MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

THE SENATE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, earlier today I provided you with notice that I would rise under the provisions of Standing Order 52 to seek leave to

adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a matter of urgent and pressing concern.

I do not think I need to go into any particular detail. The letter explains the reason. In a very short summary, though, I will simply say that over the last 24 hours, the crisis in the other place has deepened, and I am sure our constituents across the country are confused and angry at the apparent inability of Parliament to function.

Our ability to perform the functions with which the Constitution endows us is being undermined at this present moment. The continued growth of these concerns may result in the complete loss of faith in our political institutions.

In summary, basically all of us are deeply troubled by the situation in the other place. In a sense, the work of the Parliament of Canada—not necessarily the House of Commons—has been paralyzed. I would suggest that, if there ever has been an emergency in the country, it is this.

• (1230)

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I gave you notice today that because of the breakdown of the rule of law in the Senate of Canada, we believe it would be very useful to have a debate on this whole question.

We believe that the ultimate authority on all these questions is Parliament. Parliament right now is paralyzed, and we deplore that immensely. We would hope, Mr. Speaker, that in your good judgment you would give us a chance to try to restore some confidence of Canadians in Parliament and give us a debate later this day.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I am going to respond to both of these applications and I am going to say more than perhaps the Speaker usually does on such applications.

I am very conscious of the fact that the reform committee sometime ago recommended that no reason should be given by the Speaker when responding to these applications. As I had to do a few days ago, I am going to give some indication of my approach to this.