

Privilege—Mr. Hopkins

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a brief comment on the important point raised by the Hon. Member a few moments ago.

There is a fundamental obligation on the part of all Members of this House to enable points of view to be expressed, to be heard, and to enable responses to be given and to be heard. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that today in particular Members on the Government side of the House overlooked this important point. I urge you, Sir, in the carrying out of your very difficult duties to make sure in particular that Members on the government side do not take the view that somehow or another they were elected to form a one-Party state and use the numbers that they may have for the time being to prevent Members on this side of the House from being heard. In not being allowed to be heard they are prevented from carrying out the duties for which they were elected, duties all too necessary because of the way Members on the government side are overlooking the basic courtesies and responsibilities so important in this Chamber.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I had not thought it necessary to rise on this point other than to say one thing. It would be nice if we could have what the Hon. Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) was asking for. Let us face it. The problem lies on all sides of the House and cannot be solved either from the Chair or by the House Leaders. It can only be solved if the Members show some discipline and some understanding of each other.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I think all Members know that I agree absolutely with the sentiments that have been raised, particularly the comments made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans).

If I inadvertently misheard the Hon. Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins) and cut him off in the middle of a question, if it is because I thought he had completed at least the first part of his question and was proceeding to a second part. If I misheard him, I owe him an apology and I am more than happy to extend it to him.

May I simply say this. I have tried to tell the House occasionally how much time we are losing in Question Period because of the continual noise. I have also tried to tell members of all Parties that, in my view, the problem lies with members of all Parties. I have also tried to tell Members that in the end it is the Members' Question Period, and if the practice in which we have begun to indulge continues, it is not the Speaker that will lose, it is the Members of the House themselves. Therefore, I beg of you to help yourself and bring Question Period back to where I think we all want it to be.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**TABLING OF PAPER ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 46(2), I rise to table, in both official languages, the Government's green paper on International relations entitled *Competitiveness and Security: Directions for Canada's International Relations*.

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PARLIAMENT**TABLING OF REPORT ON REVISED SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND SENATORS**

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 46(1) I have the honour to table in both official languages copies of the report of the commission set up to review salaries of Members of Parliament and Senators, which should be referred to the Standing Committee on Management and Members Services pursuant to Standing Order 46(4).

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PETITION**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ROMANIA**

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to be able to present to the House a petition on behalf of concerned Canadians, many of whom are of Hungarian origin, regarding well-documented human rights violations in Czechoslovakia and Romania. These violations have been aimed at the Hungarian minority living in both countries and have included the closing of Hungarian schools, imprisonment of Hungarian dissidents and curtailment of cultural activities. The facts have been documented in the British journal *The Economist* and the situation was seen by the European Parliament in Strasbourg to be—

● (1510)

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows that he may make only a brief summary of the petition, not a reading, no matter how serious the situation is. I appreciate that it is a serious subject.

Mr. Witer: The petitioners petition this House and the Canadian Government to issue a clear statement of condemnation of these acts and that the countries involved be made aware of our abhorrence of such actions. I hereby submit 10,000 petitions in support of such a statement by the Canadian Government.