

Petitions

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

MR. HNATYSHYN—NHL FRANCHISE FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition containing approximately 5,000 signatures which were collected by the Spirit of Saskatchewan Committee at Diefenbaker Park, Saskatoon, on Sunday, June 19, 1983, during the "Day in the Park" celebration sponsored by Saskatoon radio station CKOM.

This petition calls upon Parliament to support an application for a Saskatchewan franchise in the National Hockey League.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: How did that happen?

Madam Speaker: Would the Hon. Member please resume his seat. I could accept his saying that he was sorry for having broken the rule, because I definitely saw the Hon. Member push the petition so that it would roll across the floor.

● (1510)

MR. PENNER—CNR STAFF REDUCTIONS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Madam Speaker, I have a petition to present to Parliament, signed by 120 residents of the Northern Ontario towns of Mattice, Hornepayne, Nakina, Geraldton, Hearst, Cochrane, Capreol and Hanmer. The Petition refers to the massive lay-offs in the Canadian National Railways system, thousands of jobs being lost due to operational, organizational and technological changes, so much so that essential services in isolated areas are being reduced or discontinued. The petitioners' request is simply that Parliament instruct the CN that any further staff reduction should be by natural attrition only.

MS. McDONALD—BROADCASTING REGULATIONS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from constituents in the riding of Hillsborough in the Province of Prince Edward Island—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. We have had this discussion about Members rising in their place; the Standing Orders state definitely that they should be uncovered. I have to ask the Member for the time when she is reading her petition to remove her hat. The Speaker does not wear a hat in the House. I guess that is the signal to all other Members that they should not wear hats. I do not think the Hon. Member will be in discomfort because the lights are not very glaring; we have minimum lighting today. At any rate, for the few minutes it will take to read the petition, and I remind the Hon. Member it should not be long, I think the Hon. Member can manage without her hat.

Ms. McDonald: Madam Speaker, I would ask for unanimous consent to be able to—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the Hon. Member resume her seat. The rule states that, upon rising, an Hon. Member should be uncovered. I would ask the Hon. Member to remove her hat. This is a very simple rule. Thank you very much.

Ms. McDonald: Madam Speaker, we had a discussion about this last night. Two Members denied unanimous consent. One of them subsequently apologized and said there would be no such difficulty in the future. I have reason to believe that people will be reasonable at this point today and grant unanimous consent for such a—

Madam Speaker: Order. What is the Hon. Member's point? Is it to insist on wearing a hat in the House of Commons or is it that she needs to protect her eyes from the glare? There is no glare today. The lighting system has broken down. We are on our support system. There is minimum lighting in the House today, so I do not think the Hon. Member needs a hat.

Ms. McDonald: Madam Speaker, it may be all right for you—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Ms. McDonald: —but even minimum lighting—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Ms. McDonald: The Chair noted it is considerably more difficult—

Madam Speaker: Order. I know the Hon. Member is a relatively new Member, but she should read the rules. If she reads the rules carefully, she will know that it is not possible nor proper to talk back to the Speaker in this way. When the Speaker is asking for something that is included in the rules, the Speaker is only obeying the House in a sense because the rules are made by each and every individual Member. The Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood is a Member of this House. These are her rules, they are not mine. I am simply applying them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. McDonald: The petition is from constituents in the riding of Hillsborough in Prince Edward Island. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission television broadcasting regulations do not give women the same protection against abusive comments or pictorial representations as for racial and religious groups; that the Communications Minister has been willing to empower the CRTC to regulate broadcasting to ensure Canadian content—