

Petitions

Mr. MacEachen: That is my answer to the letter and the hon. member's question. In my statements I have always held out—

Mr. Epp: Is that what Pierre said in caucus?

Mr. MacEachen:—the situation that specific targeted programs had been and would continue to be launched by the Government of Canada. That is the policy before the letter, since the letter, and the policy that I will follow.

CHANGING OF ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION DAY

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, if that explanation is to be accepted seriously by members of this House, can the Minister of Finance on behalf of the government inform members why the government did not allow today's opposition day to proceed, which day was centred on the subject matter of that letter and which would have tested confidence in the government?

An hon. Member: Because the NDP did not want it.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, it is nice to be slipping back for even a moment into my former job as House leader. I must say that if the hon. member believes that opposition day was postponed because we on this side thought we would lose support, that is absolutely wrong.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Prove it, Allan.

Mr. MacEachen: Any time you want to bring on a non-confidence motion it will be defeated, as the two non-confidence motions against the budget were defeated in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: If the hon. members opposite had learned to run the House as we have learned, they would not be in the opposition today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid on the Table the 180th report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Wise) on Thursday, February 11, 1982, and finds that it meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

POINTS OF ORDER

MR. GIMAÏEL—REFERENCE IN HOUSE TO MEMBERS BY NAME

Mr. Pierre Gimaïel (Lac-Saint-Jean): Madam Speaker, it is with all due humility that I appeal to you on a point of order. During the presentation of motions under the provisions of Standing Order 43 at noon, the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) used the name Trudeau when referring to the Prime Minister of Canada. Citation 319(1) on page 104 of *Beauchesne* clearly states the following:

319. (1) It is the custom in the House that no member should refer to another by name.

I shall go even further, Madam Speaker. I find it increasingly disturbing to hear this designation or words such as "dictator" in motions introduced in the House by the opposition. This is simply part of a plot by people such as Mr. McDermott, from western unions and by opposition parties to try to put the blame for all the problems in Canada on the shoulders of one person.

I believe, Madam Speaker, that it is only fitting that I should point out to you that the Canadian people elected Pierre Elliott Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada, and that, as members of this House, we should therefore refer to the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada by stating the title the Canadian people have chosen to give him. He is the Prime Minister of our country. He is working for the welfare of Canadians, and I find it unacceptable for people whether they were elected or not, to break the rules of this assembly in an effort to criticize, discredit and misrepresent the Prime Minister. Madam Speaker, if such people want to break the rules of the House by calling the Prime Minister a "dictator", as Mr. McDermott and others in Canada are doing, they should do so outside this honourable assembly, which is governed by well-established rules.

[*English*]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): On the same point of order, Madam Speaker, I agree with the hon. member that it is not just the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who is responsible for bringing wrack and ruin on this country; it is all those members who are supporting that government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: All of them! Particularly the ones who will not speak out on behalf of their own constituents.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: They are afraid of their constituents, they are afraid of the electorate—

Mr. Cousineau: Order!

Mr. Nielsen:—and now they are afraid to test the confidence in their own Prime Minister and government in the House.