

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member, as a Member of this institution, will surely be well aware of the proper style at this stage, having presented many petitions.

Mr. de Jong: All right, humbly sheweth, but "sheweth" sounds like a shoe.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member will please read his petition as best he can.

Mr. de Jong: It might be my immigrant background.

● (1430)

It is the opinion of your petitioners that successive Liberal budgets impose undue and unfair hardship on low and middle income Canadians and that the budgetary policies of this Government have served to increase the miseries of inflation and unemployment rather than to reduce them; that the budgets failed to reduce interest rates which thereby prohibit an economic recovery and that the citizens of Burnaby wish and need to be consulted about matters of public policy affecting their well-being.

Wherefore we, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to be dissolved in order that a general election may be held immediately. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Parent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Perhaps the Chair could clarify something for me. Is it the understanding of the Chair that all of these petitions have to be read or can they simply be tabled in the House without being read?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Certainly the opportunity is offered for Hon. Members to leave petitions with the Clerk at the Table but the Chair cannot deny Hon. Members who insist upon reading petitions their right to read the petitions. However, if they choose to bear in mind the time of the House and the circumstances and allow their petitions to be placed with a Clerk at the Table, that option is certainly open to them.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. de Jong: It sounds like there is an atheist or some such creature over there.

An Hon. Member: It takes one to know one.

Mr. de Jong: Is that a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: At this point the Hon. Member is dealing with petitions. Would he care to proceed with the petitions that he is presenting?

TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE ON CANADIAN SOIL

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that I wish to present to the House and to Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Town of Elrose in the Province of Saskatchewan, who now

exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that the Cruise missile should not be tested in Canada and call on the Government to refuse to test the Cruise in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since Elrose, Saskatchewan, is my home town, I wonder if the Hon. Member could tell me how many people signed that petition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member can merely present his petition at this point. If he chooses to indicate the petitioners' communities, it has been recognized that he can do so and he can also roughly indicate the number of signatures. However, at this stage there is no exchange or questions permitted, nor is examination of contents permitted.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, I will continue reading my petitions. I suggest to the Hon. Member that he should go back to Elrose sometime and visit his own constituency a bit more often.

Mr. Speaker, I do have another petition addressed to the honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) presented to the United Nations in 1978 a strategy for nuclear suffocation and that the testing of the new Cruise missile in Canada is inconsistent with this strategy and that Canada's NATO partners, Belgium and The Netherlands, have refused to have Cruise missiles deployed on their soil.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe that this morning, Madam Speaker and yourself pointed out to the Hon. Member, who is a good friend of mine, that he should not be reading and giving us facts. He is still doing that, and although I find it very interesting, it is not what should take place at this time. He is supposed to read the title and to give the prayer—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The point of the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) is well taken. I shall quote from *Hansard* of April 12, 1973, the remarks of the previous Speaker of the House:

Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that under the terms of the Standing Order he can only lay the petition on the table and not make a speech or present argument in support of the petition.

I call that passage to the attention of the Hon. Member.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on that same point of order. I am glad you limited the ruling to that extent because I do not think it need be denied that the nature and the purpose of the petition may be stated in its delivery.