

chairperson of the board. The chairperson of the board is not the minister. I therefore ask that the member for Calgary Northeast have an opportunity to correct the record.

The Speaker: Would the member for Calgary Northeast like to add something to this point of order?

• (1205)

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I directed my question to the solicitor general indicating that under section 135 it was within his power to address the commissioner of the board to review and revoke the decision made at the parole hearing. I understand that is what section 135(1) indicates.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, with the utmost respect to the hon. member, he should read the section of the act before asking his question. It makes no reference to any power of the minister to give any direction to the chair of the board or any member of the board.

The Speaker: I thank both hon. members for their interventions. The point has been made.

[Translation]

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, earlier today, in answer to a question from the official opposition, the Deputy Prime Minister said that Quebecers were not fools and that they would vote no on October 30.

That statement implies that 50 per cent of Quebecers, including all the Bloc members who intend to vote yes are fools. I ask—

The Speaker: This is a point of debate, certainly not a point of order. I thank the hon. member.

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, since the member claims in his point of order that I made a derogatory comment regarding Quebecers, I want to point out that my remarks concerned the blatant contradictions contained in the separatists' policy.

In that context, I believe those comments are not only acceptable, but also understandable.

The Speaker: Dear colleagues, this is not a point of order. Both sides have had an opportunity to say a few words. This is not a debate. I thank you.

The hon. member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie has the floor on another point of order.

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask you to clarify a point. What you just said is that both sides of the House can use the word "fool" in reference to people who do not agree with us. Is that so?

Routine Proceedings

The Speaker: As I said before, there is no word which is unparliamentary in itself, and that applies to this word. The important thing is how a word is used. Today, the word "fool" was used. It has been before. I would appreciate it if we never used it again. Sometimes, words are used during a debate and then we try to justify them.

I gave an opportunity to both sides to express their views. I want to leave it at that. Again, this is not a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Hanger: Mr. Speaker, relating to the solicitor general's earlier point of order regarding his intervention or involvement with parole board decisions, there is nothing in the act which prevents the solicitor general from approaching the parole board or the commissioner. It is on this basis under section 135 that I am appealing to him to intervene in those parole board decisions.

The Speaker: I thank all hon. members and I hope that clears the air a little.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

• (1210)

[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 55 petitions.

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[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 93rd report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, which lists the members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the associate members of the standing committees.

With leave of the House, I intend to move concurrence in this report.

[English]

Therefore I move that the 93rd report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs be concurred in.

(Motion agreed to.)