

The Late Hon. Thérèse Casgrain

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Monday, November 2, 1981, and finds that they meet the requirements of Standing Orders as to form.

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[Translation]

THE LATE HON. THÉRÈSE CASGRAIN

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): On a point of order, madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: The hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare on a point of order.

Miss Bégin: Madam Speaker, I have just learned—and the procedure I am using may not be the right one—of the death this morning of the Hon. Thérèse Casgrain. Without intruding on the official tributes that the party leaders will want to pay her, as a spontaneous reaction I would simply like to tell all my colleagues that this great Canadian and Quebec woman passed away in the only fitting way for her, that is quickly without pain, at an age where she had given enormously to her country. As she had called my office yesterday, I know that she was in good health. All we can say is that we offer our most affectionate sympathies to her children and grandchildren of whom she was so proud.

Madam Speaker: I am myself surprised to hear this news which, I am sure, affects everyone sitting in this Parliament. Canada has lost in Mrs. Casgrain a conscience and a great militant because she was a woman of action. Canadian women have certainly lost a model for their social and political action and many of us have also lost a very dear friend. On behalf of the House of Commons, I would like to offer her family and her children our deepest sympathy, and I am sure that others will want later on to express their feelings of sympathy and admiration, but I am speaking now on behalf of the Members of Parliament.

[English]

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues I would like to join in the expression of grief and condolences to the family which you have just expressed along with the minister. It comes as a great shock to all of us to hear of the death of such a distinguished Canadian.

Today Canada has lost a person who has made a very great contribution not only to the people of her own province for whom she worked all her life, not only to the cause of equality of women to which she devoted a good part of her life, but to

the cause of the general improvement of the human condition for all Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, it is with great shock and regret that we learn the sad news of the death of Madame Thérèse Casgrain. She was a friend to many of us. I think particularly of the way she offered encouragement not only to those within her own province or to those with whom she associated on a regular basis, but to the many of us with whom she came in contact from time to time. I think of the encouragement she offered us to fight not just for women, as she did on an unending basis, but in the way she helped achieve the franchise for women in the province of Quebec. She instilled in all those who knew her the desire to go ahead and fight for the things we knew were right and proper in whatever forum we found at our disposal, whether it was in the House of Commons, the Senate, provincial legislatures or among the general public.

She inspired people to follow her example and it is a great loss to her family, friends and country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PRIVILEGE

MR. SKELLY—S.O. 43 MOTION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Madam Speaker, my question of privilege might be delayed because the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has left the chamber. I do not think the motion that was defeated under Standing Order 43 should be allowed to be sabotaged by the government saying no. I hope to raise this with him at a later date.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would just indicate to the hon. member that if he is thinking of raising that question again when the hon. minister is present, I will not allow him to reflect on a decision which the House has already made. The House has made a decision concerning that motion under Standing Order 43. It has said that it did not give unanimous consent to put the motion to the House. Therefore, the hon. member may not comment further.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. LEWIS—S.O. 43 MOTIONS MOVED BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, referring also to the proceedings under Standing Order 43, today there were two motions made by parliamentary secretaries under that Standing Order, the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Bockstael), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister