

as a private member if I could introduce the issue via a private member's bill.

Cattle rustling is a very serious issue in all parts of Canada, particularly western Canada. Hundreds of head of cattle disappear each year as a result of rustlers. We were asked and we acted accordingly.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, from looking at the Order Paper today, I have a whole list of private members' bills which I ought to be introducing. However, as a result of the government's very undemocratic motion that denies every member his or her rights, I am now unable to introduce my private member's bills on behalf of constituent groups across Canada.

For that reason I really believe that my rights as a member have been breached. Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to rule on the appropriateness of the government to take steps day after day after day which make it impossible for members of Parliament to do the jobs that we were sent here to do and whether it is appropriate that the government has the right simply to ignore the Routine Proceedings of the day, within which we are able to carry on the duties and responsibilities we were elected to do.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join this debate. Indeed what we have just heard sounds to me like a crying over spilled type of approach.

Last week and this week, the House has seen the New Democratic Party do certain things to procedures that frustrated the Orders of the Day, that is, the Routine Proceedings and the calling of business for debate by the members of this House. We did not complain about that being an attack on our privilege at the time, and I do not think it is today, although I did, as all of us on this side in the Official Opposition did, vote against the motion put by the government that we proceed to Orders of the Day.

We feel as strongly as anybody about our right to table petitions, and indeed we have proven that over the months. Since last August Liberal members of Parliament have tabled over 60,000 names and over 1,500 GST petitions here in the House. These are in addition to the 250,000 petitions delivered to the Minister of Finance in September of last year which were gathered by the *Sun* newspaper chain.

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We still have hundreds of thousands of petitions to table in this House. We will table them some day and Canadians will have a chance to have recorded in the proceedings of that day that they objected to this drastic tax, this unjust and unfair sales tax which the government is proposing.

I object to anybody saying that my privileges in this House have been impeded today because the government went to Orders of the Day. I think that is within the rules.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the previous speaker, and rather than participate in this filibuster any longer, I would ask that you rule immediately.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to thank the hon. member for Kamloops, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier and the House leader for their interventions.

I would like to say that the motion to proceed to Orders of the Day is an age old motion. As far as petitions are concerned the member can file them with the clerk at the table. On private members' bills, there will be future opportunities. Therefore I have to rule out the question of privilege.

I believe there has been consent to have the hon. member for York Centre present his motion.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

REPORT ON CONVICTION OF DONALD MARSHALL

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the decision of the House taken by this vote to proceed to Orders of the Day, I believe you will find unanimous consent to permit me to press the matter of the emergency debate of which I have given the Chair notice as required under Standing Order 52.

I move and request that the report just released of the Royal commission established by the Government of Nova Scotia to investigate the conviction of Donald Marshall, Junior, a Micmac Indian, and the implications of the findings for the national government in areas relating to justice, racism, native justice and self-government, police conduct and the Correctional Service of Canada, be considered by the House on an emergency basis.