

*Petitions*

We have spent months debating this Bill on second reading. We have spent weeks debating this Bill clause by clause in committee. We are now willing to devote a reasonable length of time to debate this Bill at its final stages. The NDP have chosen to obstruct. The way that they have done it this morning and are trying to do it now is simply unacceptable and disrespectful of Parliament. I submit that you are absolutely right, Mr. Speaker, to intervene at this stage, to plead for order of the House, and to assume your responsibilities and ask that the Hon. Member do the honourable thing, and that is table his petitions according to Standing Order 71(1).

**Mr. Deans:** Point of Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will cite to the House Citation 339 of Beauchesne:

While a member may, if he desires, present a petition in his place in the House during routine proceedings and before the introduction of Bills, the general practice is to present petitions by filing the same with the Clerk of the House.

That is the general practice. It has been the general practice of the House. At this stage I am inviting the Hon. Member to file the remaining petitions with the Clerk of the House.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, what was the citation to which you referred? I have Beauchesne's Citation 339 in front of me. It does not relate to petitions.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am citing from the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would be kind enough to refer me to the section in the Fifth Edition of Beauchesne in order that I can follow it. I do not have the Fourth Edition.

**Mr. Pinard:** It is on the Table.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair is under no obligation to cite another edition. The Chair is citing the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne, Citation 339, page 259, which is a practice observed in the House for a long time. In the circumstances, the Chair is calling Introduction of Bills.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Introduction of Bills.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Point of order.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Point of order.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I invite the Hon. Member for Burnaby to resume his seat.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I invite the Hon. Member for Burnaby to resume his seat.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Point of order. I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Heap:** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have heard the Hon. Member on points of order and I have heard his House Leader on points of order.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** This is a new point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will hear him for the last time on a point of order relating to this matter.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, thank you for letting me present the point of order. I cite Beauchesne's Citation 692 which refers to petitions. Citation 692 has in fact superseded Beauchesne's Citation 339 which was referred to by the Speaker previously. Beauchesne's Citation 692 is different in substance from Citation 339 and reads as follows:

While a Member may, if he desires, present a petition from his place in the House during Routine Proceedings and before the Introduction of Bills, he may also present his petition by filing it with the Clerk of the House.

I emphasize "may". Mr. Speaker, that is fundamentally different from the citation which the Speaker referred to previously, that is, Citation 339 which refers to some alleged general practice which clearly had fallen into disuse.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member cannot reflect on a ruling of the Chair.

**Mr. Deans:** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Standing Orders have not changed—

**Mr. Deans:** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain resume his seat, please?

**Mr. Deans:** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please resume his seat? The Standing Orders of the House of Commons have not changed in this matter since the Fourth and Fifth Editions of Beauchesne's.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** They have so. It reads differently.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Standing Orders of the House of Commons have not changed on this matter since the Fourth and Fifth Editions of Beauchesne's.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Beauchesne's has changed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The fact remains that the wording may have changed a little bit. In the circumstances there is still an obligation on the Chair to preserve the orderly conduct of House business. In the circumstances, the Chair now calls for introduction of Bills.