

Routine Proceedings

A further case was raised on September 19, 1973. At that time the member for High Park—Humber Valley stated that he had received anonymous telephone calls warning him to cease raising questions on a certain subject. He suggested these calls amounted to attempts to intimidate him and prevent him from carrying out his duties as a member.

• (1010)

Speaker Lamoureux in ruling on the matter stated the following:

[*Translation*]

The House will appreciate there is some difficulty in finding a prima facie case of privilege in circumstances where no charge has been made and there has been no suggestion in the House of any irregularity or impropriety. There is really nothing for the House or one of its committees to consider under the heading of privilege.

[*English*]

He further stated:

I am sure the hon. member for High Park—Humber Valley does not suggest that his conduct should be sent to the committee for consideration or investigation by it.

—The hon. member has indicated what the facts of the situation are— I suggest that nothing at all would be gained by having a debate, either in the House or in a committee, on the matter raised by the hon. member for High Park—Humber Valley.

[*Translation*]

To return to the present case, I have carefully reviewed the statement made by the hon. member for Markam—Whitchurch—Stouffville. Threats of blackmail or intimidation of a member of Parliament should never be taken lightly. When such occurs, the very essence of free speech is undermined. Without the guarantee of freedom of speech, no member of Parliament can do his duty as is expected.

[*English*]

While the Chair does not in any way make light of the specifics that have been raised by the hon. member for Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville, I cannot, however, say that he has sufficiently demonstrated that a case of intimidation exists such that his ability to function as a member of Parliament has been impeded. I cannot therefore find prima facie privilege at this time.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in

both official languages, the government's response to five petitions.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the second report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Pursuant to the order of reference, on Monday, February 14, 1994, your committee has considered Bill C-8, an act to amend the Criminal Code and the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act (force), and your committee has agreed to report the bill without amendment.

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DIVORCE ACT

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): moved for leave to introduce Bill C-231, an act to amend the Divorce Act (granting of access to, or custody of, a child to a grandparent).

She said: Madam Speaker, the motion is very simple. The bill that I am presenting today would amend the Divorce Act to grant access to grandchildren for grandparents upon divorce.

Often times in our society when families are torn apart in a divorce it is the children who are hurt the most and require someone who can help them put their world back together.

• (1015)

Grandparents are a prime source of the financial and emotional assistance children need during this time in their lives. The bill will remove the obstacles which sometimes arise in a divorce that prevents grandparents from offering these resources to their grandchildren.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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PETITIONS

GUN CONTROL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, I am presenting a petition signed by 100,000 Canadians. It is part of a 200,000 name petition that asks Parliament to ban the private ownership of handguns.

This petition was launched by Concordia University after four of its professors were murdered in 1992 with an easily obtained handgun.

The petition has been endorsed by 200 broadly based organizations, including the police, which come from all across Canada.