

Point of Order—Mr. Rose

not propose to question your ruling, but I do have a question along with the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose).

I have been concerned for some time now, as have my colleagues, about certain statements left on the record which then become public and perhaps do constitute the imputing of motives or unparliamentary language, or in some way are not dealt with at the time but are left on the record.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Most of them on your side.

Mr. Collette: If an hon. member is not on his feet at a particular time or not in the House to raise the question, what is one then to do to correct what obviously could be construed as a question of privilege? It is very serious, Madam Speaker. This occurs not only in motions under Standing Order 43, but it occurred most recently on an alleged question of privilege by a member of the Conservative party. In the course of exposing that question of privilege, my friend the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Hudecki) objected to certain innuendos alleged about members of Parliament from Hamilton. Because you had already ruled that the Conservative member did not have a question of privilege, the hon. member for Hamilton West could not join in further debate.

● (1530)

With all due respect, perhaps you and your officials would give some consideration to what is becoming a frequent occurrence. It leads to the problem outlined by the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) which occurred earlier today.

Madam Speaker: First, I must make it quite clear to hon. members that, aside from what happens during the course of motions under Standing Order 43, the fact a member complains that something said about himself in the House was true or untrue does not constitute a question of privilege. As long as unparliamentary language is not used, the Chair can do nothing about forcing one member to be more or less truthful about something. The Chair has no responsibility with regard to the substance of the interventions of hon. members in the House.

Second, I should like to address myself to the matter of Standing Order 43. One of the weaknesses of Standing Order 43 is that one either receives unanimous consent to put a motion to the House or one does not. If one receives unanimous consent to put it to the House, it can be debated. Then hon. members may rise and complain about the motion or its preamble. It is one of the weaknesses of that Standing Order, but the only way the House can deal with it is by giving or not giving a member unanimous consent to put a motion to the House.

I was victim of the same thing the other day with a motion which related to matters under the jurisdiction of the Chair; there was not much I could do about it. If hon. members want to change the Standing Order in order to allow the Speaker to determine what is adequate as a preamble or as a motion, I am in the hands of the House. But I cannot do anything more

about motions under Standing Order 43 than what is provided within the scope of that Standing Order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MR. HUDECKI—SOCIAL INJUSTICES IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present to the House a petition signed by over 4,000 citizens of Hamilton and area, drawing the attention of Parliament to the social injustices which are prevailing in El Salvador, urging the government to oppose military support by the United States to that country, and requesting a clear and independent policy on El Salvador.

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SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD DAY ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-636, respecting Sir John A. Macdonald Day.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Miss MacDonald: Madam Speaker, I am moving for leave to introduce a bill intituled "An act respecting Sir John A. Macdonald Day". As the House is well aware, there has been a proposal for some time now that the third Monday of every February be observed as a statutory holiday. My bill would establish that day as a legal holiday and would determine that it be observed as Sir John A. Macdonald Day, in lasting tribute to the man who had a vision that there should come into being a country stretching from coast to coast on the northern half of this continent, and who went on to become the first Prime Minister of the country.

This bill will not only receive overwhelming support from my constituency of Kingston and the Islands but from all across the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)