

Petitions

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Minister shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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● (1110)

[English]

PETITION**NORTHERN RESIDENTS' TAX ALLOWANCE**

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege, on behalf of the constituents of Kenora—Rainy River, to present this morning three petitions duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. The first is signed by approximately 92 residents of the community of Fort Frances and the communities of Sioux Narrows and Watten Township. The second is signed by approximately 27 residents of the community of Fort Frances and the third is signed by no less than 216 residents of the communities of Ignace, Dryden, Wabigoon, Dinorwic, Dymont, Vermilion Bay, Eagle River, Waldhof, and Borups Corners.

These petitioners, along with the well over 1,000 who have already signed petitions from various communities in my riding, are calling upon the Government to redress the inequitable situation which has been created by the application of the northern residents' tax allowance and seek the Government's remedy in extending that tax allowance to all those ridings consisting of remote and isolated communities designated and known as Tier III ridings.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29**TENOR OF REPORT OF COMMISSIONER FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion under Standing Order 29.

I respectfully ask the Chair to accept my proposal to adjourn the business of the House for an emergency debate on the conduct of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, Mr. D'Iberville Fortier.

I have received several opinions as to the validity of my request which in every respect meets the Standing Orders of the House as adopted in June 1987. Beauchesne's, the Table Research Branch, your predecessors and you yourself, Mr. Speaker, have laid down the rules for conducting this kind of debate. All the criteria are there for the Chair to accede to my request, and they are quite clear. If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker? I will be very brief.

I will spare you the various precedents I would not insult the Chair by quoting from authors like Erksine May, 20th Edition, Beauchesne's, Lamoureux or Jerome. The Clerk of the House, Mr. Robert Marleau, and his colleagues are eminently qualified to confirm the accuracy of my statement.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, all my Conservative colleagues from Quebec sitting in this House vigorously endorsed the present proposal at a convention my Party held in Montreal.

It is the first time in the history of the House that a senior official appointed by Order-in-Council to be the "watchdog" of bilingualism has been condemned by a legislative assembly.

This morning, according to the rules, I sent the Chair notice of my request. I included a passage from the unanimous motion condemning D'Iberville Fortier. I sent copies of my request to the Chair, to all Members of this House and to all Members of the Quebec National Assembly. In this connection, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to read to the House the motion of the Leader of the Opposition, as amended by the Premier and adopted unanimously by the National Assembly on March 24, 1988. The Secretary General of the Quebec National Assembly has been asked to send you a certified copy, if so requested.

Mr. Speaker, here is the text of this unanimous motion:

That this National Assembly vigorously condemns . . .

Mr. Speaker: I realize the subject is a very important one, but I don't think it is appropriate to read a motion by the National Assembly of the Province of Quebec. I agree the motion is also very important, but the Hon. Member does not have to put the question for the Speaker. Proceed, please.

Mr. Jourdenais: Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling.