

Senate Reform

by 548 residents of Cardigan, 606 residents of Egmont and 1,171 residents of Malpeque, Prince Edward Island. The purpose of the petition is to protest the Government's intention to discontinue rural mail delivery on Saturdays, thereby denying 17,450 householders of mail, newspapers and other materials, and to close rural post offices on Saturdays, a move which will affect some 25,300 people.

The petitioners hope that in your examination of the petition, you will find the petition in order and exercise the discretionary powers vested in the Office of Speaker of the House of Commons to allow discussion and referral to committee of this issue at the earliest possible time.

MR. BRADLEY—OPPOSITION TO BILL C-10

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Madam Speaker, it is my duty to present a petition signed by 119 members of the various churches in my constituency of Haldimand-Norfolk who are very concerned about the provisions of the Non-Profit Corporations Act, Bill C-10. The purpose of this petition is to protest the Government's proposed changes in Bill C-10 which allows a court of law to interfere in the affairs of the church body. The nature of the petition is to urge the Government to drop the provisions of Bill C-10 which would infringe on the rights and privileges of the church to take a moral stand on matters concerning membership of that church body.

The petitioners hope that in your examination of the petition you will find the petition in order and that you will exercise the discretionary powers vested in the Office of Speaker of the House of Commons to allow discussion and referral to the committee at the earliest possible time in order that the sanctity of the church in Canadian society can be preserved.

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● (1540)

POINT OF ORDER

UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege concerning a matter which I believe could impinge upon the rights of all Hon. Members of the House.

Mr. MacKay: It better not.

Mr. Harquail: It relates to this: the rules—

An Hon. Member: We could have passed the Bill by now.

Mr. Harquail:—of the House are in fact the instruments by which we operate in this House. When there was not clarity earlier, the hon. gentleman in question rose and repeated the word which was very clear to me. I do not understand—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has ruled on this particular incident and I would ask the Hon. Member not to raise it again.

Some Hon. Members: Down, down!

Mr. Lewis: Ask Senator Pitfield.

Mr. Harquail: Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I must tell the Hon. Member that that question has been ruled upon and cleared and therefore the Hon. Member should not comment on it.

Mr. Harquail: I am just trying to clearly understand why in other circumstances Hon. Members are called upon to withdraw or are forced to leave the chamber. Why is it—

Mr. Nielsen: Leave.

Mr. Harquail:—can you clarify why—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. If the Hon. Member reads *Hansard* when it is ready, he will realize that the statement has been corrected, and since it was not quite clear which of the expressions had been used, the Hon. Member had corrected his statement. Therefore, the incident was closed.

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[*Translation*]

SENATE REFORM

ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I have had consultations with the Opposition House Leaders, and an agreement has been reached for giving unanimous consent to the following motion which is being put in response to a request from the Senate to form a Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the Senate to consider the reform of the Senate of Canada. The text of the motion is quite long, although if Hon. Members insist, I shall read it. Otherwise, if my colleagues whom I gave copies of the motion agree, I will ask for the unanimous consent of the House to have the motion agreed to without further proceedings.

[*English*]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I would normally be delighted to give that consent. However, all Members of Parliament are entitled to hear it. I have not had the opportunity of distributing copies to my colleagues, so I would ask that it be read.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard moved, with the unanimous consent of the House:

That a Message be sent to the Senate informing their Honours that this House doth unite with the Senate in the appointment of a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons to consider and report upon ways by