

which I have done.

—upon the petitions presented and such report shall be printed in the *Votes and Proceedings* of that day. Every petition so reported upon, not containing the matter in breach of the privileges of this House—

That is what the report had said, that they were in order as to form.

—and which, according to the Standing Orders or practice of this House, can be received, shall then be deemed to be read and received.

Therefore, the petition is deemed to have been read and received and therefore it is not for the Speaker to determine that the petition should be read.

I would like to quote from Beauchesne, Citation 695.

A petition having been presented, and being in order as to the form, may, with unanimous consent, be ready by the Clerk, and may thereafter, with unanimous consent, be referred to a committee.

There are some references there which I have not consulted but which I assume to be precedents in this respect. Therefore, as I read the Standing Orders and the interpretation in Beauchesne, I feel that I have no discretion to decide to have the petitions read, unless the House so desires and expresses that desire by unanimous consent.

Mr. Nielsen: I do not intend to pursue the matter at this time since there is other more urgent government business to come before the House. But I do intend to pursue it further.

As the Chair knows, I have raised the matter before. I might put back-to-back with Beauchesne's Citation 695 which has been cited, Citation 694 which states:

While a member has clearly a right to ask that a petition be read, it is a privilege, like many others, subject to the approval of the House itself. In case of opposition, the Speaker will put the Member's motion, "that the petition be read", formally to the House.

As I say, I will not pursue it further today. I will go back into *Hansard* to see where we have had this exchange before and determine if we can get the matter straightened out. I do believe it is important not to set an undesirable precedent here, which I think might be happening.

Madam Speaker: I read Beauchesne's Citation 694 as well. I have the feeling that it refers to older practices of the House because there is an obvious discrepancy between that one sentence and the Standing Orders. When Beauchesne is not too clear I suppose the next reference for any member of the House would be the Standing Orders.

I appreciate the hon. member's concern. I also appreciate that he will want to look into it, as I will myself.

Introduction of Bills

UNIFORM EDUCATION STANDARDS ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-651, an act to provide for uniform education standards.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Flis: Madam Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to establish a council whose main function it would be to encourage uniform education standards which, at present, vary from one province to another in Canada.

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

* * *

● (1520)

[*Translation*]

PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-104, respecting petroleum incentives and Canadian ownership and control determination and to amend the Foreign Investment Review Act.

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

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CANADA BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-105, to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act.

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

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ENERGY MONITORING ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-106, respecting energy monitoring and to amend the Energy Supplies Emergency Act, 1979 and the Oil Substitution and Conservation Act.

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