

Statements by Ministers

An Hon. Member: A little louder, Erik.

An Hon. Member: Ten o'clock, Erik.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I call Citation 263 to the attention of the Hon. Member. It reads as follows:

A brief question and answer period may follow the Minister's statement and Opposition comments. The length of this period is left to the discretion of the Speaker—

The Speaker has exercised his discretion.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, will you allow me to be heard? Will you tell them to turn on my microphone so that I can be heard? I now have to raise my voice. I refer the Chair—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is not the intention—

Mr. Nielsen: Citation 263—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is not the intention of the Chair to engage in an argument with the Hon. Member under these circumstances. The Hon. Member may, at other times and places, take whatever measures he considers necessary. However, it is the decision of the Chair that the statement by the Minister was treated not as a point of order but as a statement. The Minister disagrees. There was a statement by the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead. The Chair exercised some discretion in permitting comments and in permitting what was a comment. At this stage the intervention was brief and, if I may call it to the attention of the Hon. Member for Yukon, the reply exceeded that of the Minister in time. I think *Hansard* will so disclose.

● (1520)

In the circumstances, it is the decision of the Chair that the matter shall be treated this way and we will proceed to the next item of business.

Mr. Nielsen: A clarification.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have called petitions and I am now—

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I have a separate point of order here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: At this point the Chair would like to recognize the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen), I presume on the same matter.

Mr. Nielsen: I would like to be heard on the point of order.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition to the honourable House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The Chair understood the Hon. Member for Kootenay West was making an intervention on what is alleged to be a point of order at this point, which has

been decided by the Chair. Now, what is the Hon. Member for Yukon saying at this point?

Mr. Nielsen: Thank you for allowing me to be heard and instructing that the light be turned on, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to seek clarification from the Chair, because with all of the howls that were going on I may have missed something. Was it the Chair's ruling that under that Standing Order and that Citation the Chair has a discretion as to whether to allow questions following the comments? I see the Chair nodding in the affirmative. That is all I wanted to establish.

Mr. Pinard: That is what Beauchesne says.

Mr. Nielsen: I am afraid it does not.

Mr. Pinard: You quoted it yourself.

Mr. Nielsen: Not with respect to questions. Comments, yes, but not questions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Petitions.

* * *

PETITIONS

MR. KRISTIANSEN—TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE ON CANADIAN SOIL

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I will try again. I have the honour and duty to present a petition to the honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that this Government refuse to test or manufacture parts for the Cruise missile, that it recognize the Cruise missile as an unprecedented escalation of the nuclear arms race, and that agreement to test the Cruise would make it impossible to attain the noble goal of ratifying present arms limitations agreements and of creating future ones. Therefore may this House take the symbolic step of refusing the Cruise and thereby fulfil the Prime Minister's pledge to suffocate the nuclear arms race. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. KILGOUR—TESTING OF U.S. NUCLEAR DEVICES

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, this is a petition on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Development. I have not counted them but there are approximately 3,000 names of people from across Canada. The petition says that in this critical period of a new cycle of nuclear weapons which could be unverifiable, Canada must give strong support to those parties in European governments who are refusing to accept Cruise and Pershing missiles. Canada must refuse to sign any agreements protesting U.S. nuclear devices or their delivery systems. It is my honour and