

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, that is not where the loan responsibility rests, just to give the information to the Minister of Finance. It rests with the Department of Trade, but there is not a soul from that Department over there and it was the Minister of Finance who announced it.

ACTIVATION OF FUND

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Will the Minister make a commitment to encourage his colleagues to activate that fund so that Indians can start small businesses, and have proper funding which would help the unemployment situation which is tragic with the Indian people?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has difficulty accepting a supplementary in view of the responsibility of another Minister for the program, according to the rules and practices of the House.

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PETITIONS

MR. CROSBY—MARITIME COMMAND UNIFORM

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) on Thursday, March 22, 1984, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. McGRATH—RELEVANCY OF SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order arising out of your ruling during Question Period as to the relevancy of my supplementary question. I do not often challenge the Chair. Indeed, under the rules we cannot challenge the Speaker's rulings. However, clearly, Mr. Speaker, I think in this particular case you were wrong, and I say that with great respect—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: My question was clearly supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for St. John's East is an experienced parliamentarian for whom I have personally a great deal of respect. I am sure the Hon. Member knows that supplementaries are in the discretion of the Chair. I believe an examination of today's *Hansard* will indicate that this Question Period was not the finest hour. With all due respect, the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) asked a very specific question relating to incentives with regard to the petroleum industry in his area, and a very specific—

An Hon. Member: Order.

Petitions

Mr. Speaker: With all due respect, in the interpretation of the Chair, this was an incentive for investment. The Chair had great difficulty relating the supplementary as posed by the Hon. Member—and this was a discretion of the Chair in an attempt to accommodate Hon. Members—to an investment incentive program announced in the Budget. In the circumstances, the Chair determined it was not a relevant supplementary.

The Hon. Member will note that the Chair had one or two other difficult decisions to make today. With all due respect, the Chair would be delighted to meet with the Hon. Member afterwards. If there is a true feeling there has been an injustice done, the Chair is always willing to look at the record and try to be as fair as possible in the circumstances in granting supplementaries.

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I have noticed that the Speaker during the last several weeks has been recognizing Hon. Members to ask questions without supplementaries during the last five or ten minutes of each Question Period. I would like to commend the Speaker and ask him to continue the practice.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member, however well intentioned, is out of order at this point.

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Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, I have been away from the House for several weeks. When I opened my desk drawer I found that someone had left a "weapon" in my desk. I believe, actually, it is the kind of thing which someone should use on the Minister of National Revenue, but you are welcome to have it!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will bring this to the attention of the Sergeant-at-Arms and wishes to assure the Hon. Member that it is inconceivable that any Hon. Member of this House would bear any ill will toward him!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

MS. MITCHELL—PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from over 900 parents of school children who live throughout the Cities of Vancouver, Coquitlam, Surrey, Langley, Richmond, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Moody, Delta and West Vancouver in British Columbia. These parents ask that an error in the federal Criminal Code of 1976 be corrected so that growing children can be protected in parks and playgrounds from convicted