

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 22, 1994

The House met at 10 a.m.

[English]

Prayers

[English]

POINTS OF ORDER

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I know one does not normally comment on the presence or absence of someone in the House, but we have just convened Parliament without any presence of the official opposition. I am not referring to a member. This may have happened before but I wonder if it is appropriate.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I am sure the hon. member recalls that we do not refer to the presence or the absence of anyone in the House.

Mr. Lee: Madam Speaker, if I might on the point of order, I want to state clearly that I am not referring to the presence or absence of a member. I am referring to the apparent complete absence of the official opposition from the proceedings of the House today.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Any 20 members compose a quorum in the House and we have that. I would like to proceed with tabling of documents.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I am pleased to table, in both official languages, the government's response to petitions.

PETITIONS

RIGHTS OF GRANDPARENTS

Mrs. Daphne Jennings (Mission—Coquitlam, Ref.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour this morning of presenting petitions on behalf of my constituents for the right of grandparents to gain access to their grandchildren through an amendment to the Divorce Act.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, constituents of my riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt are adding to the growing number of people who are concerned about the intrusion of government into the rights of ordinary, law-abiding citizens.

This intrusion is in the form of adding to the already stringent gun control legislation in Canada. Canadians are clearly saying that we have a crime problem, not a gun problem.

The petitioners are calling on Parliament to oppose further legislation for firearms acquisition and possession, and to provide strict guidelines and mandatory sentencing for the use or possession of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

I agree with and support the petitioners and urge the government to reconsider its position.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): I would ask, Madam Speaker, that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Scott (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

On May 3 of this year I put Question No. 47 on the Order Paper. It asked for information relating to the travel and entertainment expenses of deputy ministers in the years 1991, 1992 and 1993. A part of the question was tabled sometime last week by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader. Since an Order for Return was issued, I am asking when we can expect to have the report for 1991 and 1992?