

adopted by Parliament is transmitted to the appropriate authorities.

As for the Chair's position that this is a parliamentary and not a Government matter, I agree wholeheartedly. I think it is now up to the Chair to transmit the message as the servant of the House, but if we can help you in any way, in addition to the comments made in the House today, we are at your disposal for further consultation, as the Chair decides. Nevertheless, I would like to give my Hon. colleague from Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) the assurance that we shall transmit his views and mention the attitude of the Soviet diplomat to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen).

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, the Government House Leader has made the suggestion that I would have made had he not risen. I think perhaps, if we have the usual House Leaders' meeting tomorrow, we might review the matter at that time and perhaps consult with you subsequent thereto. Certainly something has to be done to resolve the situation. There is also the very important question of whether or not ordinary diplomatic immunity applies in a case of this nature. That question will have to be explored as well before we come to any premature conclusions as to what Parliament should do about the contemptuous behaviour of the Chargé d'Affaires in refusing to accept the message of this House through its servant, Madam Speaker.

I would suggest the matter be allowed to rest there, and in the meantime may I point out that 40 minutes have now gone by on two very important points which have arisen, one concerning the business of tomorrow—because there is no other occasion upon which that point can be raised—and this one which had to be addressed immediately because it dealt with a report from the Chair. Perhaps, Madam Speaker, there might be a disposition to extend the hours by unanimous consent tonight by 40 minutes so as to allow all three items, which now stand on the Order Paper as Private Members' business, to be called.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, to answer the question of the Hon. Member, I must add the words "if necessary" because these past Wednesdays we have noted that time has often been wasted and that the House had to adjourn before six o'clock since one or two Members were not ready to proceed with their Bills. So, if the Hon. Members are ready to proceed with the study of the three Bills on the Order Paper today, of course we agree that the House sit until 6.40 p.m., if necessary.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent that the House sit past six o'clock, if necessary?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Madam Speaker:** In answer to the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) and other Members, I must tell them that I will examine what

### *Petitions*

other means are available to me to convey the message which the House has asked me to send to the soviet authorities. I can only warn Hon. Members against some means which have been suggested and which are perhaps not in keeping with the dignity of this institution. I did convey the message to the highest level. I received a reply which neither I nor the House like, but should I go running right and left to hand over the message, or even slip it under a door to be able to deliver it? Anyway, those are things to be considered.

If Hon. Members agree, I will examine all means at my disposal and, as the President of the Privy Council and the Hon. Member for Yukon have suggested, I will advise the Leaders of the various Parties of my conclusions so that they may review the question and then make new recommendations to me.

● (1540)

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### PETITIONS

#### MR. MITGES—PROTECTION OF VARIETY STORES AGAINST VIOLENCE

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition by concerned citizens of my riding of Grey-Simcoe which urges the Government to take all necessary steps to ensure that grocery stores, variety stores and other similar outlets that are open late hours in the evenings be adequately staffed and protected in order to help curtail robberies, beatings and even murders that lately have taken place in ever-increasing numbers in these establishments across Canada.

#### MR. HALLIDAY—OBJECTIONS OF OXFORD RIDING CITIZENS TO PROPOSALS OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Madam Speaker, it is my privilege and duty to present three petitions to the House this afternoon. If I may, I would do so under the umbrella of one preamble.

These petitions manifest the steadfast opposition of citizens of the riding of Oxford to the proposals of the federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario that would alter the riding in a manner disrespectful of the longstanding cultural and economic ties and associations within the present federal constituency of Oxford. The first is signed by 24 residents of East Zorra-Tavistock township who object to the proposed severance of their township from Oxford riding. The second petition includes the names of over 90 people from Zorra township who express a firm desire to prevent their township from being separated from Oxford.

Finally, the third petition I have the honour to present today is signed by over 1,100 concerned citizens of the constituency