

All I am saying to you, Mr. Speaker, is that I have taken a very straightforward view with respect to the Standing Orders and I have complied in every respect. I believe if you read the Standing Orders, Mr. Speaker, you can come to only one conclusion, that this is an appropriate method of proceeding. I would ask you to rule accordingly.

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say that we are not going to be thankful to the Government House Leader for, as he said, bending over backwards to be pleasant to us. Once we have had the unpleasant notice about closure on Bill C-15, we know it is coming, so he does not need to bring it forward a second time. He has done so now in writing. There is no problem; we don't quarrel with the fact that he is giving us supplementary notice. The gist of what our House Leader was trying to put forward is that if the Government House Leader wants to give a second notice—which we agree he has a right to do—he should do it at the right place, namely, under Motion. That is the main point we are trying to put across, and that is what we would like you to rule on, Mr. Speaker.

● (1520)

Mr. Speaker: I fully appreciate that that is what I will have to rule on. I think Hon. Members will agree that the suggestion that the Standing Orders are always clear and permit only one interpretation has to be of interest to all of us who deal with these matters.

Since I do not think it affects debate today, and I think I have the time, I am going to reserve on this matter. I have had some preliminary thoughts on it, because when I saw the matter on the Notice Paper I started to ask some questions. I have come to no conclusions. I am grateful for all the learned advice I have been given, and I will of course make sure that a ruling is ready for the House in sufficient time that the matter can be appropriately resolved.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

PRESENTATION OF SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, as vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport, I have the honour of tabling the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Transport.

[Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

Petitions

[English]

PETITIONS

ESTONIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CANADA—IMPRISONMENT OF MART NIKLUS

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today a petition on behalf of the Estonian Central Council in Canada. The Council petitions the House for its assistance in protesting the continued imprisonment of an individual who represents the voice of freedom in Estonia. Mart Niklus has been imprisoned for speaking out against the Soviet regime and has embarked upon a hunger strike in protest. Niklus is now suffering from poor health caused by the extended hunger strike—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Has the Hon. Member finished summarizing the petition?

Mr. Witer: The petitioners implore the Canadian Government to protest his continued imprisonment and demand his release.

PROPOSED POSTAL RATE INCREASE

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House of Commons a petition from residents of the constituency of Calgary South, Alberta. They petition the House to take their views into consideration, namely that the proposed increase in postal rates is unjustifiable in view of the present standard of service.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS—SEVERANCE PAY

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, the petition I present is from the Canadian Airline Flight Attendants Association. They call upon Parliament to reverse the regulation passed by Cabinet which takes severance pay into account when calculating unemployment insurance benefits.

SASKATCHEWAN'S SENIORS ACTION NOW ASSOCIATION—RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan's Seniors Action Now Association, the leadership of whom are in the gallery today. If I may summarize very briefly, they make seven recommendations to this Parliament, including the fact that retirement income for seniors should be at least the minimum wage, and the total retirement income should be at least at parity with 75 per cent of the average income for all Canadians. They also talk about establishing a Department of Senior Citizens—I am sorry I cannot go on, but they make seven excellent recommendations and I am sure if you were in my position you would present their petition.