

Petitions

Tremblay
(Québec-Est)
Tupper
Turner
(Ottawa—Carleton)
Van De Walle

Vankoughnet
Vézina
Weiner
Wilson
(Swift Current—
Maple Creek)

Wilson
(Etobicoke Centre)
Wise—70

● (1250)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. At this point in Orders of the Day I assume we can revert to petitions. I do have a significant number of petitions.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Robinson: I assume we are still at the stage at which petitions can be presented. I have petitions which I wish to present to the House on a number of subjects including local measured service and a range of other subjects.

Mr. Benjamin: Good thinking.

Mr. Robinson: I hope that at this time, Mr. Speaker, you will give me the opportunity to present these petitions on behalf of my constituents who wish to have their various concerns presented to the House.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Benjamin: We are still on petitions. The Speaker has not called anything else.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that at this time the most appropriate thing for the Chair to do is to see that it is in fact one o'clock.

It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. When the House adjourned at one o'clock we were at the stage of presenting petitions under Routine Proceedings. Petitions had been presented by a number of Hon. Members and then a vote was taken. After the vote was taken the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), who had risen earlier and presented petitions, rose on a point of order to argue that he should be permitted to present a further petition. The Chair heard the Hon. Member and the House was adjourned at one o'clock. I indicated that I would consider the matter and return to the Chamber. The Chair is ready to rule on the point of order of the Hon. Member for Burnaby.

I want the facts to be clearly understood. For the clarification of all Members and those who are watching these

proceedings, the Hon. Member is asking to present one or more additional petitions after having already presented petitions.

Mr. Broadbent: On a different subject.

Mr. Speaker: The process in the House has been that under the presentation of petitions during Routine Proceedings a Member who rises and is recognized by the Chair can present one, several or many petitions at that time. The petitions do not have to be all on the same subject, nor do they have to all come from the same part of the country. The practice has also been that, once having presented petitions, that particular Member cannot take his seat and rise again later to present another petition.

I draw to the attention of all Hon. Members the ruling of former Speaker Sauvé on October 28, 1983. Speaker Sauvé then said:

I warn Hon. Members that if they have several petitions they should file them all when they are recognized, because I will not recognize Members twice on petitions.

On June 11, 1985, former Speaker Bosley said:

There is no rule that says that the Hon. Member cannot present more than one petition. There is a practice that says a Member may seek the floor once to present petitions at which time the Member may try to present more than one petition. —that has been the practice for some years—

Lest any Hon. Member or the public who follows these proceedings think that the petition or petitions which the Hon. Member for Burnaby has in his hand is, as a consequence of this practice, being prevented from being presented to the Chamber and, through the Chamber, to the Government of the day, I remind Hon. Members that there is another procedure for bringing that petition to the table, that is simply to call for a Page and have the Page deliver the petition to the table here in the Chamber. At that time that petition will be noted just as are other petitions presented when Members rise. That petition, along with the other petitions, will be transferred on that day to the appropriate office of the Government of the day, which Government must reply to petitions within 45 days.

Clearly, this practice does not preclude citizens of the country from having their petitions brought before the Government. Members who, perhaps due to the press of duties or forgetfulness, do not present all the petitions they have while on their feet, can always return on the next sitting day of this House and apply to present the petitions and say some words in support of them.

Therefore, the Hon. Member's petition can, of course, be tabled. The citizens of the country who have signed that petition will have it properly dealt with. There are, therefore, two consistent precedents by which the Chair is bound. I have to rule against the Hon. Member for Burnaby. However, in doing so, I will say that as always the Hon. Member for Burnaby understands the rules of this House and uses them skillfully in the advancement of what he and other Hon. Members feel are the interests of their constituents and in the