

Introduction of Bills

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, it cannot be denied that the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) has failed to abide by the rule so clearly put in Beauchesne, which says that questions of privilege are to be raised very seldom, and then only in exceptional cases where the freedom of expression and speech of members is at stake. In the circumstances, I feel it is clear that the message he has given us today if purely political, namely, that he is not happy about the fact that certain documents have been submitted to the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court of Canada. In fact, the proceedings before a court are totally independent of the proceedings in this House. The justices of the Supreme Court are quite able to determine what is acceptable and what is not, in the case of documents that are submitted to their tribunal. It is not up to us to tell them what to do, and I feel that the attitude of the hon. member for St. John's West is an insult to the justices of the Supreme Court of Canada. It is certainly out of place as far as Parliament is concerned, since the documents in question have been submitted to a court, where members' privileges are absolutely irrelevant.

Madam Speaker: I have the clear impression that the question, as it was put to me, falls within the purview of an entirely different authority, and certainly not mine. I am not convinced that a member's privileges have been breached. Hon. members may have comments and even grievances regarding the situation over which the Chair personally has no control and, above all, should not be asked to rule. I do not believe it is a question of privilege, and consequently, I declare at this time that I cannot accept it as a question of privilege. Perhaps the hon. member would like to seek redress from other authorities.

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: Thank you, we will, Madam Speaker. We will not allow the judicial system to be interfered with. It is jack-boot justice and it is an interference with the courts. It is disgraceful, and I say to members opposite that they must clean up their act.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

LABOUR, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

PRESENTATION OF FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal-Sainte-Marie): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

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

[English]

PETITION

MR. PATTERSON—RECONSIDERATION OF GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Madam Speaker, I have the duty to present the following petition. To the honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, the petition of the undersigned of the Abbotsford Fish and Game Club in the province of British Columbia, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth that the private member's Bill C-451, regarding gun control legislation which deals with the number of firearms in Canada; wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to oppose this legislation and deal directly with the present laws which are cumbersome, expensive to administer, and ineffective except to harass law-abiding people. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

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BANK ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS ON PROPERTY

Madam Speaker: Introduction of bills. Mr. Yurko, seconded by?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We are confronted with a rather unique situation here where the only independent member of the House of Commons is attempting to introduce a private member's bill, which is not going to be discussed in any event until this session prorogues and we commence another one.

It has been a tradition in the House that private members on all sides nevertheless have their business introduced, at any rate; whether or not it arises for discussion is another matter. I think if you were to request it, there might be a disposition, on the basis of that tradition—that is, the right of every private member—to give unanimous consent for the introduction of this private member's bill.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the introduction of this bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Yurko, seconded by Mr. Kempling.

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-655, to amend the Bank Act to provide a