

that you rule both on the facts I put before you and also the law.

This being an amendment which could be in the Constitution of Canada, it is extremely important that the legal principles which are articulated in the English language are articulated in the French language as well. What is left out in the French is the legal concept or recognition. I have checked with some scholars of the French language who say the section should read:

Les droits aborigènes ou issus de traités des peuples autochtones du Canada sont par les présentes reconnus et confirmés.

I ask Your Honour to take steps to inquire into the accurate translation of the English spoken into the record yesterday and tabled by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I ask Your Honour to inquire into that translation and to provide the appropriate and accurate translation of those words so that the legal significance which is there in the English is provided in the French text.

Since it is part of the Constitution, it will go before the courts and before legislatures, and I think it would be very improper for this House to pass something that has such a tragic inaccuracy in it.

Madam Speaker: I am afraid I have to tell the hon. member that this is neither privilege nor order. The Chair is not competent to determine whether a translation is correct or whether two texts are equivalent. Sometimes it is a matter of translation, but there is also the matter of the equivalency of texts, and it is not for the Chair to determine that either under order or privilege. If the hon. member feels he has a point, the proper way to deal with it would be to propose an amendment to the motion in order to have the text changed. That would be the proper course to follow, and I invite the hon. member to do just that.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITION

MRS. MITCHELL—THE CONSTITUTION—REQUEST FOR DELETION OF SECTION 33 OF CHARTER

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, it is my duty to present a petition to the House sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Women on the Constitution. This petition asks for the removal of the override section, Section 33, from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is the hope of Canadian women that members of Parliament will delete the shockingly regressive Section 33 in order to guarantee that basic rights and freedoms—and 25 of them are

Order Paper Questions

listed—cannot be violated by the provinces or the federal government.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 2,326, 2,956 and 3,309.

[Text]

MR. A. E. MASTERS

Question No. 2,326—**Mr. Crosby:**

Is Mr. A. E. Masters, president of the Maritime Employers Association, also a member of the Montreal Port Authority and, if so, does the government consider that the holding of the office of the president of the Maritime Employers Association plus membership in the Montreal Port Authority might result in a conflict of interest in respect of the different interests of the port of Montreal and the port of Halifax?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): The National Harbours Board advises as follows: Mr. Masters has been a member of the Montreal Port Authority since it was established as an advisory body. The Port Authority membership includes representatives from both labour and employers, and Mr. Masters' knowledge and expertise in labour matters associated with shipping is considered an asset in providing advice to those responsible for management at the port of Montreal.

PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

Question No. 2,956—**Mr. Clarke:**

With reference to Section 32 of the 1979-80 Public Accounts of Canada, under what authority has the limit for enumeration of professional and special services contracts been raised from \$2,000 to \$25,000 and what rationale was used in making this twelvefold increase?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): The office of the Comptroller General authorized the limit increase for the enumeration of professional and special services contracts, from \$2,000 to \$25,000. This was done after the office of the Comptroller General consulted with the Departments of Finance and Supply and Services.

This increase in the limit was requested by the Department of Supply and Services in order to reduce the costs of preparing and printing the public accounts as well as the costs incurred by departments in preparing their input to the accounts. As a result of the increase in limit, departments do not provide information on contracts between \$2,000 to \$25,000, but only \$25,000 and over.