

Points of Order

JUSTICE

Mr. Darrel Stinson (Okanagan—Shuswap, Ref.): Madam Speaker, on behalf of my hon. colleague, the member for Calgary Southeast, I rise in the House on day eight to present petition number eight. These petitions are being presented on behalf of constituents who wish to halt the early release from prison of Robert Paul Thompson. April 11, 1995 is the date set for the parole hearing.

The petitioners I represent are concerned about making our streets safer for our citizens. They are opposed to the current practice of early release of violent offenders prior to serving the full extent of their sentences.

The petitioners pray that our streets will be made safer for law-abiding citizens and the families of the victims of convicted murderers.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Dale Johnston (Wetaskiwin, Ref.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present a petition.

The petitioners request that Parliament support laws that severely punish all violent criminals who use weapons in the commission of a crime; support new Criminal Code firearm control provisions that recognize and protect the right of law-abiding citizens to own and use recreational firearms; and support legislation that will repeal and modify existing gun control laws which have not improved public safety or have proven not to be cost effective or have proven to be overly complex as to be ineffective and/or unenforceable.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Dale Johnston (Wetaskiwin, Ref.): Madam Speaker, the second petition is from the constituents of Wetaskiwin.

The petitioners pray and request that Parliament not amend the Human Rights Act or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in any way that would tend to indicate societal approval of same sex relationships or of homosexuality, including amending the Canadian Human Rights Act to include in the prohibited grounds of discrimination the undefined phrase, sexual orientation.

• (1525)

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 on behalf of a number of residents of communities in western Canada.

The petitioners point out that the Canadian Mineral Industry Federation has proposed a 10-point plan of action to be addressed by both the mineral industry and the Government of Canada to keep mining in Canada.

They call on Parliament to take immediate action which would increase employment in this crucial sector, promote exploration, rebuild Canada's mineral reserves and sustain mining communities in order to keep mining in Canada.

WATER DIVERSION

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Madam Speaker, I have another petition in which the residents point out to the House of Commons that a company in western Canada called Multinational Resources has indicated its plan to divert water from the North Thompson River near Valemount, British Columbia, in an effort to resell that water in San Diego, California. This is one of the many proposals from the North America Water and Power Alliance; that is, to divert Canadian rivers into the United States and northern Mexico.

The residents call on the government to introduce legislation that would categorically prohibit any permits allowing freshwater rivers to be dammed or diverted into the United States—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): I am sorry. I think we are into debate.

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[Translation]

POINTS OF ORDER

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jean-Paul Marchand (Québec-Est, BQ): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to Question No. 93, which I tabled in this House on October 19, 1994. Usually, the response period is 45 days, but, in this case, 120 days have gone by since the question was raised.

I would like to know why it is taking three times the usual maximum time allowed. What is the point of having rules, if the government is not going to comply with them? Despite whatever excuses might be made, I would like to know when I will get an answer to Question No. 93.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, as always, the government tries to prepare responses to questions as quickly as possible. In this particular instance, I am informed that the response is almost ready to be tabled in the House. I will table it as soon as I receive it.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): If Questions Nos. 112 and 113 could be made orders for returns, these returns would be tabled immediately.