

Petitions

every claimant in Canada, and adequate opportunity to arrive in Canada to make this claim.

I also have a petition signed by more than 600 Canadians from all over the country—Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, other parts of British Columbia, Newfoundland, and Alberta. They point out that the Government's proposed legislation, Bill C-55, fails to meet the demands of the public and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

Therefore they urge Parliament to ensure that Bill C-55 will be withdrawn and to substitute therefor legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada, and the right of appeal on the basis of fact.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY THE CCN OF RENTAL INCREASES FOR
LA MAISON D'AMITIÉ

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my duty to table some twelve petitions signed by people from my riding who wish the House would be kind enough to help *La Maison d'Amitié*, a francophone non-profit organization which looks after women and children in distress.

Mr. Speaker, those people are presenting a petition in which they humbly state that according to a report made public by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, one woman out of eight is subjected to psychological, economic, sexual or verbal violence by her spouse; that at a time when the Government should act instead of cracking down, the National Capital Commission intends to raise the rent for *La Maison d'Amitié*, the only non-profit francophone organization for women and children in distress, by more than 3,000 per cent; that the Prime Minister himself stated recently in the House that the problem of battered women is one of the most serious social and legal challenges facing us today; therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the National Capital Commission to reverse its decision to raise the rent and to continue, as in the past, charging the symbolic sum of one dollar.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO NEW SYSTEM OF TAXATION OF NORTHERN
BENEFITS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today a petition signed by northerners who are concerned that the new system of tax deductions for northern residents has been unfairly applied, that the taxing of northern benefits is heavy-handed and complicated, and that it taxes away benefits intended to compensate northerners.

OPPOSITION TO CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have upwards to 100 petitions which I would like to

table today, signed by residents from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories.

The proposed changes to the Patent Act will directly affect all Canadians who are not protected by private or government medical programs.

Whereas the federal Government's proposals will raise the already high cost of provincial health care programs; whereas the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies, will result in an increase of drug costs and prices, and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs; and whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concession in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of every day Canadians, the petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to reject these proposals with regard to the amendments to the Patent Act which will inevitably increase prescription drug prices for all Canadians.

OPPOSITION TO NEW SYSTEM OF TAXATION OF NORTHERN
BENEFITS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition on behalf of a number of northern Canadians, pursuant to Standing Order 106, who are of the opinion that the new system of tax deductions for northern Canadian residents have been applied in an unfair way and leave out many communities which ought to be included in terms of being able to take advantage of special northern deductions.

They believe that the northern benefits system is heavy-handed and complicated and taxes away existing benefits which were in fact intended to compensate employees working in northern Canada because of the loss of amenities they experience.

They ask the House of Commons to direct the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to reconsider the system of tax measures when the tax reform study takes place, since he promised to do so in the 1987 Budget.

SUPPORT FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Sid Fraleigh (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present on behalf of citizens of Ontario and Canadians from across the country 1,425 signatures calling upon Parliament to pass a motion favouring the return of capital punishment in Canada.

These signatures, which now total 29,904, represent the strong will of Canadian people on this important issue.

Mr. Patrick Crofton (Esquimalt—Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 1,043 Canadians from across the country, urging Members of the House to