

draw to the attention of the House the fact that more than 60,000 foreign domestic workers have come to Canada since 1981 to answer the needs of many Canadians for domestic workers not otherwise available here. Nearly all of these workers are women and most are visible minorities. More than 80 per cent of these workers have been accepted as landed immigrants, indicating their continued value and adaptability to Canada.

They believe this new directive of the minister of immigration is insensitive to the needs of Canadian employers, callously disregards the needs of the women of the world, and contradicts a fundamental principle of Canada's longstanding non-discriminatory immigration policy.

They therefore pray and call upon Parliament to rescind the new directive, acknowledge the contribution of past, present and future foreign domestic workers to Canada's social and economic well-being, restore our Canadian values of tolerance and humanitarianism, and preserve Canada's international esteem.

If I may add, Mr. Speaker, I join them in their petition and I ask the minister to rescind the new directive in the name of equality and human dignity.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to introduce in the House today a petition signed by residents of Ottawa, Nepean, Gloucester, Vanier, Kanata, Manotick, and elsewhere in the Ottawa—Carleton region. These constituents are outraged at the price of gasoline in the Ottawa—Carleton region when compared to prices elsewhere in the province of Ontario.

These constituents are calling on the government to take action in order to correct this injustice through an amendment to the Competition Act.

• (1550)

#### DOMESTIC WORKERS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by residents of Canada, many of whom are domestic workers.

These petitioners call on the Parliament of Canada to urge the minister of immigration to give foreign domes-

tic workers the option not to live in the homes of their employers outside of working hours since that often leads to sexual harassment and continued exploitation in the workplace.

They ask that work experience take precedence over any formal training, that domestic work be recognized as an occupation needed in Canada, and that the necessary points be awarded toward permanent resident status.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today to present a petition on behalf of over 200 signatories who are adoptive parents.

This order is pursuant to Standing Order 36, and these adoptive parents, all from the area of Thunder Bay, are asking the government to reconsider its position with respect to the legislation as it affects adoptive parents throughout Canada, and to stop the discrimination between those who are biological parents and those who are adoptive parents. They are one and the same.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 and present a number of petitions with respect to the CRTC hearings and the Unitel bid.

The petitioners in this particular case are concerned that any widening of competition within the area of telecommunications will unduly affect the affordability of service, particularly to those people in rural areas.

They urge the Minister of Communications to consult with all effective parties, specifically those citizens living outside Canada's urban areas, who will be impacted severely by deregulation. They further urge the minister to hold local hearings in the communities before deciding the fate of Canada's telecommunications system.

#### SOFTWOOD LUMBER INDUSTRY

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** The other petition, Mr. Speaker, is with respect to the softwood lumber issue and the forests in the province of British Columbia.

The petition is signed by a number of people within my riding from places such as Westbridge, Greenwood, Princeton, Grand Forks and others. They are concerned