

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 28, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 14 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present five petitions signed by Canadians who strenuously object to the government's decision to abolish the Court Challenges Program.

Your petitioners maintain that thanks to this program, many individuals and minorities were able to ask the courts to clarify their constitutional and language rights and to uphold the equality provisions in the Constitution.

This government program directly benefited the democratic system in this country by making it possible for Canadians to defend their constitutional rights before the courts at very reasonable cost.

Your petitioners ask Parliament to consider the possibility of reinstating the Court Challenges Program which gives all Canadians equal access to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[*English*]

WATER DIVERSION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of petitioners throughout British Columbia who, in anticipation of the two-day session next weekend on water diversion that is being held in Vancouver, are opposing the notion of interbasin transfers of water.

They are asking that we as a Parliament and the Canadian government state categorically that Canadian rivers will never be dammed and diverted into the United States of America.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have four petitions which I want to present.

The first one is from petitioners who point out that a number of Canadians can now get receipted child care while those parents who stay at home cannot do so. They feel that this is unfair and discriminatory.

They want other practices that are unfair and discriminatory removed and they want a harmonization of various programs to attempt to help the family.

RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from petitioners who want to ensure that Parliament regulates the use of foul language on radio and television. They believe that what happens now often undermines efforts of the family. They want strict rules of conduct in the use of language on radio and television.

[*Translation*]

EDUCATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): My third petition, Mr. Speaker, deplores government cutbacks in post-secondary education and the tax on student loans which, it feels, is a contradiction of the government's policies on competitiveness, and so forth.