

Criminal Code

[English]

AGRICULTURE

TABLING OF REPORT ON FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, in both official languages, under Section 41(2) of the Standing Orders a report on federal meat inspection.

CONCURRENCE IN SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Walter Smith (Saint-Jean) moved that the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, presented to the House on Monday, May 26, 1975, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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CRIMINAL CODE

PETITION IN RESPECT OF LAW ON ABORTION

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride, history and honour that I rise today to present a petition containing 1,027,425 signatures of Canadian citizens who plead that it is parliament's most basic duty to protect innocent human life.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: Scientific evidence now puts in beyond reasonable doubt that a human life begins at conception, yet our laws permit the widespread practice of abortion in Canada. On this occasion, I also rise on behalf of the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean), the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), who is represented by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall), the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan), the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne), the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin), the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale), the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. McIsaac), the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche), who also represents the Territories, and the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco).

● (1510)

Mr. Speaker, over one million Canadians call upon parliament to enact legislation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has adequately described the nature of the petition and the circumstances surrounding it. I think it ought to stop there.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on this particular day I would appreciate it very much if you would give the hon. member a chance to carry on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I am sure we can get the unanimous consent of the House to allow her to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. member may know, we have made extensive arrangements for the acceptance of this important petition. The hon. member has described the petition and she has referred to the member from each province who was involved in the presentation of the petition. We have extended all these courtesies to make sure that the presentation of this important petition is as dramatic and emphatic as I am sure all hon. members wish it to be. It remains only for the petition to be presented. We are fully aware that it constitutes some 35 packing cases of signatures which I am sure the hon. member does not have with her at the moment. If there is anything else I can do to accommodate the hon. members who are interested, I am certainly prepared to do it.

Mr. Roche: I cannot add to what Your Honour has said about the nature of the petition. I would only plead that you allow the words of the petition, which constitute only about one more paragraph, to be read into record at this point so that thousands of Canadians who read *Hansard* can see them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member raises an interesting point. Other hon. members will be aware that it has been held in the past—I have cited one of these decisions in connection with a petition presented by the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Roberts)—that the reading of representations attached to petitions is not the proper way to bring petitions before the House; that it is to be done through hon. members, in debate, and through their efforts to persuade the cabinet that the law should be changed. However, in this situation, if there is unanimous consent that the balance of the petition be read, I am prepared to be guided by hon. members. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mrs. Appolloni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over one million Canadians call upon parliament to enact legislation providing for the child conceived but not yet born the same protection as is provided for any other person, and also urge parliament to show leadership in fostering a life-sustaining society.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the member presenting the petition on behalf of the signatories from New Brunswick and future generations of that province was the member for Northumberland-Miramichi.