

*Routine Proceedings*

## JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## REFUGEES

## EIGHTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the eighth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General.

In accordance with its order of reference of Wednesday, May 6, 1992, your committee has considered Bill C-71, an act to amend the Criminal Records Act and other acts in consequence thereof, and has agreed to report it with one amendment.

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

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• (1030)

## PETITIONS

## THE CONSTITUTION

**Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today under Standing Order 36 to present a petition from a number of people from the town of Selkirk, Ontario, which was sent in by Norma Davidson of Selkirk.

It calls upon this government to accept or reject constitutional amendments as proposed by the government in a referendum. What these citizens call upon this government to do, which is different from the government's legislation, is for it to have a double majority, a majority of votes cast in the provinces with the territories being given the status of one province, and a majority vote of the total votes cast in the whole of Canada together.

## PORNOGRAPHY

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today under Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by many of my constituents from Malpeque, Prince Edward Island. They state that whereas pornography is a serious problem in Canadian society, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to take measures to address the serious social problem, pornography, and protect Canadian women and children from its harmful effects.

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and pleasure to introduce today a petition approved by the Clerk from 87 residents of Canada, from many places including Toronto, Elmsdale, Gravenhurst, Willowdale, Thornhill, Scarborough, Downsview, Williamsport and several locations in British Columbia and the prairies.

The petitioners are concerned about the situation of the families of people who have been accepted as refugees in Canada but have not yet been able to bring their families, their spouses and children from countries where some of them are living in extreme difficulty, if not danger.

Therefore, the petitioners urge Parliament to urge the minister of immigration to issue minister's permits for spouses and dependent children of refugee claimants who have been permitted to apply for landing from within Canada, including persons in the backlog and persons accepted under the new legislation and allow them to be reunited in Canada for inland processing.

## LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

**Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to present petitions from several Canadians, pursuant to Standing Order 36 and ratified thereby, who call upon the Parliament of Canada to urge the Government of Canada to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention without delay and to mobilize Canadian diplomatic resources to encourage other nations, in particular developed nations, to ratify this important treaty as well.

The petitioners do that for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that a statement from the World Commission on Environment and Development, commonly known as the Brundtland commission, states that the most significant initial action that nations can take in the interests of the oceans' threatened life support system is to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention. It points out the critical role that oceans play in the life support systems of the whole planet.

There have been some objections to the ratifying of it. The Secretary General of the United Nations has come to agreements with some nations which had reservations about ratifying it and most of those concerns have been clarified.