

Petitions

request that the Progressive Conservative Government refrain from discriminating against elderly people in need.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I have a petition from the people of the federal riding of Victoria in British Columbia, who want the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada to force the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), who is bringing down his Budget today, to extend the spouse's allowance to all persons living alone, between the ages of 60 and 64, and who are in need, whether they are single, separated or divorced, and these people are asking all the Members of this House to support their petition to avoid discriminating against the elderly.

[English]

RELEASE OF MARK NIKLUS FROM SOVIET PRISON CAMP

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by over 1,500 concerned Canadians. They are calling for the release of Mr. Mart Niklus, a prisoner in the Soviet Chistopol prison camp. He was sentenced to 10 years hard labour and five years internal exile. Mark Niklus' only crime was to speak out against the Molotov-Ribbentrop—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Member has the right to make a summary of his petition. It sounds to me as though he were making a speech about an issue that he thinks is important. It is a speech. This is the time for a summary of a petition only.

Mr. Attewell: It was in connection with the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939. He was forbidden to speak in his mother tongue.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Member has submitted his petition. We will take it as read. Does the Hon. Member have a summary of his petition to make?

Mr. Attewell: These concerned Canadians, Mr. Speaker, are calling on the Houses of Parliament to urge the Soviets for his release.

CHANGES TO OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 38 people of St. Isidore de Prescott, Ontario. These people are objecting to the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 which would discriminate against single, unmarried and divorced people between the ages of 60 and 64.

I have another petition signed by Members of the Golden Age Club, Hawkesbury, Ontario, signed by 35 people. They object to the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26, which would adversely affect single, divorced or separated people between the ages of 60 and 64—

[Translation]

—and it is signed by three residents of the village of Plantagenet who are against the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 under which needy persons living alone, as well as single and divorced persons aged 60 to 64 would be denied benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 150 people who are members of the Unions culturelle des franco-Ontariens and who are opposed to the provisions of Bill C-26 which discriminates against needy single, divorced or separated persons aged 60 to 64.

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by three residents of the village of Limoges, Ontario, who are also opposed to the provisions of Bill C-26 which might discriminate against needy single, divorced or separated persons aged 60 to 64.

I have another petition, Mr. Speaker, and this one is signed by six residents of Rockland's Laurier House. As you may have guessed, Mr. Speaker, these people are against Bill C-26 discriminatory provisions which would prevent needy persons aged 60 to 64 who live alone, and single, divorced or separated people persons from receiving benefits to which they are entitled.

● (1550)

[English]

CBC PROGRAM *THE NATURE OF THINGS: A PLANET FOR THE TAKING*

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House of Commons a petition from the residents of my constituency of Fraser Valley East, British Columbia. They petition the House in order to express their concern that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has utilized the television program, *The Nature of Things: A Planet for the Taking*, to put forward the evolutionist point of view whilst ignoring the opposing points of view of creationism. The petitioners call upon Parliament to remind the CBC that it is mandated to provide balanced programs on controversial issues.

CHANGES TO OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, I have several very important petitions to present to the House today. The first one is signed by 36 residents of Le Club d'âge d'or d'Alfred in the federal riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell. These 36 petitioners are petitioning the Government to amend Bill C-26 to end its discriminatory provisions to ensure that all elderly people are treated equally.

I have another petition signed by 36 residents in the federal riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell who belong to Le Club d'âge d'or d'Embrun. They are also petitioning the federal Government to ensure that the discriminatory provisions of Bill C-26 are left out of that particular piece of legislation. They petition the Government based upon the inequality of that particular piece of legislation.