

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 20, 1994

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Mr. Martin Cauchon (Outremont, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report prepared by the official parliamentary delegation of the Canada-France Parliamentary Association which attended the 25th annual meeting of the association held in Montreal, Charlevoix and Iqualuit from July 16 to July 24, 1994.

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[English]

PETITIONS

MINING

Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin—St. George's, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to present petitions on behalf of several hundred residents of Newfoundland. The signatories of these petitions come from my riding of Burin—St. George's as well as from the riding of my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the member for Gander—Grand Falls.

The petitions salute the importance of the mining industry as the mainstay of employment in more than 150 communities across the country and as an important contributor to Canada's gross domestic product and exports.

The petitioners call on Parliament to take action that will increase employment in the mining sector, promote exploration, rebuild Canada's mineral reserves, sustain mining communities and keep mining in Canada.

I have much pleasure in presenting these petitions and in giving them my full support.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Werner Schmidt (Okanagan Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, according to Standing Order 36, I would like to present two

petitions. The first petitions the government and prays that Parliament ensure that present provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibiting assisted suicide be enforced vigorously and that Parliament make no changes in the law which would sanction or allow the aiding or abetting of suicide or active or passive euthanasia.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Werner Schmidt (Okanagan Centre, Ref.): The second petition, Mr. Speaker, is from petitioners who pray and request that Parliament not amend the human rights code, the Canadian Human Rights Act or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in any way which would tend to indicate societal approval of same sex relationships or of homosexuality, including amending the human rights code to include in the prohibitive grounds of discrimination the undefined phrase sexual orientation.

It is an honour for me to present these petitions on behalf of my constituents.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today, both on the same subject. I would like to add that there are a growing number of Canadians who continue to be concerned about the proposition of more gun legislation in this country.

These petitioners call to the attention of the House that current legislation allows law-abiding citizens of Canada to own firearms and that current legislation regulates the acquisition and possession of firearms through a complex, expensive and rigorous regulatory scheme. In the vast majority of serious crimes in which firearms were involved those firearms were illegally acquired or were illegally possessed.

Therefore, the petitioners call on this House of Parliament assembled to oppose further legislation for firearms acquisition and possession and to provide strict guidelines and mandatory sentences for the use or possession of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime. I concur with my petitioners.

CANADA POST

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle, N.D.P.): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition signed by over 400 people from Balgonie, Saskatchewan in my constituency.