

Routine Proceedings

MINING

Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.): Madam Speaker, I also have a very voluminous petition of 107 pages with 1,207 signatures. The petitioners are drawing to the attention of the House the Canadian Mineral Industry Federation's proposal of a 10-point plan of action to keep mining in Canada. Again, I concur very vigorously with it.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.): Madam Speaker, additionally, I have received a petition of 11 pages with 144 signatures.

I note it is from a very small area in my constituency where they are very deeply concerned about the restrictive firearm controls that are being proposed by the government. Again, I concur with it.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.): Madam Speaker, I am also very encouraged to present one last petition which arrived on my desk. It was an absolute surprise to me. It consists of 66 pages with over 1,400 signatures.

The petitioners ask for a national, binding referendum by all Canadians on the issue of capital punishment. That is the position of the Reform Party and it is certainly my position. I concur completely with this petition.

MINING

Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin—St. George's, Lib.): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise and present a petition. The petitioners, who are from several communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, have signed their names by the hundreds on the issue of Canada's mining industry, noting that it is the mainstay of employment in over 150 communities. It notes that Canada's investment climate is forcing its mineral industry to look for new opportunities elsewhere.

• (1520)

The petitioners call on Parliament to take action that will grow employment in this sector, promote exploration and rebuild Canada's mineral reserves.

I have great pleasure in supporting this petition.

VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast, Ref.): Madam Speaker, I rise today, as I will every day until April 11, 1995 to present petitions. This date is set for the scheduled parole hearing of Robert Paul Thompson seeking his early release.

The petitioners I represent are concerned about making our streets safer for our citizens. They are opposed to the current

practice of early release of violent offenders prior to serving the full extent of their sentences.

The petitioners pray that our streets will be made safer for law-abiding citizens and their families of the victims of convicted murderers.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Madam Speaker, it is an honour for me to present a petition made possible through the efforts of Bill C-55 and especially Mr. Doug Collins, Mr. Nick Carter and Daniel Earl and signed by residents of the great city of Kamloops.

Motivated by the Melanie Carpenter tragedy the petitioners call for changes to Canada's justice system, including assurance that those who are violent and sexual offenders are jailed for sufficient terms and if necessary for life to ensure that safety and security return to our streets and to our neighbourhoods.

This is the first of many petitions to come. To this date well over 3,000 signatures have already been gathered in just the last few days urging for changes to our criminal justice system.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mrs. Sue Barnes (London West, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I rise today to present three different petitions from people in my riding and elsewhere dealing with discrimination and sexual orientation.

The petitioners urge among other things to bring forward the Canadian Human Rights Act amendments that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

On that issue I am very much in agreement and I think it is time that we have this enacted in our legislation.

INCOME TAX

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Madam Speaker, I have two petitions to present today to the House of Commons.

In the first one, 558 constituents from Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt have signed the following: "We the undersigned residents of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt draw the attention of this House to the following: that the finance minister has indicated that he might change the rules regarding RRSPs and pensions and tax the holdings or income of these plans. Therefore we request that Parliament oppose any attempt to alter our ability to provide for secure retirement by way of taxation of assets or income of RRSPs and pension plans".

The message is clear, Madam Speaker. Do not touch our RRSPs or our pension plans.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Madam Speaker, the second petition is signed by 86 petitioners from Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt. I point out that to date