

Petitions

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I agree with what the Hon. Member has said with respect to some of the issues she has outlined. I have said that myself on other occasions.

Ms. Mitchell: Get on with it, then.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): In terms of consulting with the Minister responsible for the status of women, that has been ongoing, as well as with some other members of Cabinet who have related responsibilities. With respect to the coalition, I have met with them. They have made their presentation to me and have given the reasons why they feel a Royal Commission should be established.

I have not given them an indication as to what position the Government will take, but I have said in this House and other places that I believe the issues of ethics are important. They should be studied. I think too often in medical science and other sciences, that science gets ahead of the ethics of these issues. But I cannot confirm or give the Member any assurance today that a Royal Commission will be established, either in terms of time or in terms of reference.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to 51 petitions numbered as follows: 332-4899, 332-4973, 332-5096, 332-5111, 332-5154 to 332-5156 inclusive, 332-5172, 332-5187, 332-5208, 332-5209, 332-5215, 332-5216, 332-5226, 332-5238, 332-5239, 332-5241, 332-5249, 332-5251, 332-5255 to 332-5267 inclusive, 332-5272 to 332-5277 inclusive, 332-5281, 332-5282, 332-5287, 332-5296, 332-5306, 332-5314 to 332-5316 inclusive, 332-5323, 332-5324, 332-5326, 332-5357 and 332-5367.

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

[*English*]

• (1510)

CHILD CARE

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present to the House of Commons a duly certified

petition. The petitioners are from the communities of Morinville and Legal, Alberta. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament that the child care decisions be left with the parents, where it belongs.

LABELLING OF FOOD INGREDIENTS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that we are not actually bringing forward a Bill. In my hand I have petitions with more than 20,000 signatures supporting Bill C-289, an Act to amend the Food and Drug Act, which would require restaurant labelling on foods to heighten public interest.

I would like to table these petitions with special thanks to the Allergy Information Association and other groups, including the Consumers Association of Canada, the Celiac Association, the Allergy Foundation, the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, the Canadian Council of Children and Youth, the Allergy Foundation of Canada and the Food and Nutrition Research Foundation, for their special help in gathering these more than 20,000 signatures.

I hope that by the time we get together again it will be post-election and we will be able to do something about it.

IMMIGRATION—SPONSORING OF RELATIVES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of some 75 or more residents of the City of Toronto who are concerned about our immigration policy. Among other things they point out that in 1986 the then Justice Minister promised that the unfair distinction between Canadian citizens and permanent residents of three years or more would be eliminated so that both groups would have equal rights to sponsor parents of any age. Since this promise has not been fulfilled, they call upon Parliament to ensure that the Government fulfil this promise now.

[*Translation*]

RETENTION OF 10-WEEK QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, it is also my duty to present a petition to you.

[*English*]

The petitioners are from Bayfield, New Brunswick, Port Elgin, Cape Tormentine and Baie Verte.