

*Routine Proceedings*

Challenges Program is an inexpensive government initiative that directly benefits all Canadians and costs approximately 10 cents per person per year”.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to urge the government to consider the advisability of reinstating the Court Challenges Program.

[*Translation*]

## RECOGNITION OF STATUS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to table a petition signed by hundreds of Quebec residents from Montreal, Quebec City, Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot and several other regions.

The petitioners state that whereas many Canadians object as a matter of conscience to any war-like or military activity and do not in any way wish to participate in such activity; whereas a large number of Canadians refuse to be obliged to kill or be killed in a conflict they condemn or deplore; and above all, whereas some religious groups have already obtained recognition of their status as conscientious objectors in Canada, for instance, Quakers and Mennonites; and whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes the right of all Canadians to freedom of opinion and protecting freedom of conscience means people have the right to refuse to do armed military service and to withdraw from that service for reasons of conscience, these citizens of Canada pray and call upon the government and the Parliament of Canada to pass legislation that will recognize the status of conscientious objector in the case of individual Canadians who wish to claim that status.

[*English*]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, as well I have the honour to present a petition which is signed by residents of Langley, Burnaby, Vancouver and North Vancouver, British Columbia which notes two Canadians, Christine Lamont and David Spencer, who have been sentenced to 28 years each in a Brazilian prison have suffered miscarriages of justice, cruel and unusual treatment in Brazilian prisons and discrimination in sentencing and parole; that the cumu-

lative effect of these irregularities provides ample ground for the Government of Canada to seek a remedy on their behalf; that the only relief available from such severe punishment is for Canada to request expulsion in accordance with Brazilian law.

Therefore, the petitioners call upon Parliament to urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to request the Government of Brazil to expel Christine Lamont and David Spencer and return them to Canada.

## NATIONAL REFERENDUM

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to present a petition signed by residents of Cheticamp in my riding of Cape Breton Highlands—Canso.

The petition calls upon Parliament to enact legislation providing for a referendum of the people binding upon Parliament to accept or reject constitutional amendments proposed by the government.

The second part is the acceptance or rejection of the proposed amendments to be determined by a majority vote of the total votes cast in the whole of Canada together with a majority vote in the majority of provinces with the territories being given the status of one province.

This is signed by residents of Cheticamp in my constituency.

**Mr. Al Horning (Okanagan Centre):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to present three petitions with approximately 200 names from my riding of Okanagan Centre requesting that the Government of Canada conduct a binding referendum on any constitutional amendments.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, I have a petition similar to the one that the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway presented on behalf of Christine Lamont and David Spencer.

Basically what the petitioners request is that the Secretary of State for External Affairs request the Government of Brazil to expel Christine Lamont and David Spencer and return them to Canada.