

Routine Proceedings

RIDEAU RIVER

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I rise in my place to present a petition that was sent to me by my constituents following the latest householder I put out in my riding. This petition states:

Whereas a clean and healthy environment is fundamental to our economic and social well-being and;

Whereas, past neglect of our environment has had a negative impact on many communities, one of which is the pollution of our rivers and streams and;

Whereas, the Rideau River in my riding of Ottawa—Vanier that has become polluted through many years of neglect, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ask the federal government to enter into an equal partnership with provincial and municipal governments to develop a plan of action for the clean-up and maintenance of the Rideau River.

REFUGEES

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36, on behalf of constituents who feel that while Canada has recently had an enviable record of compassion for the underprivileged and especially refugees now, Canadian taxpayers have spent unjustifiably exorbitant amounts of funds on a determination system that has proved to be inequitable and ineffective as the delays in processing claims has caused grave physical, social, psychological and emotional harm to the claimants, their families and those who assist them.

Therefore, your petitioners call for and ask that a grant of a general amnesty be given to all refugee claimants presently in Canada, subject to the exclusion only of those who have serious criminal records in Canada or records abroad for offences that would be considered serious in Canada.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present, pursuant to Standing Order 36, a petition from residents in Ontario and British Columbia, over 200 in number, petitioning the House to call upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs to request the Brazilian government to expel Christine Lamont and David Spencer and return them to Canada.

POVERTY

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present petitions signed by over 600 Canadians from every region of the country. They say that women in Canada are living in poverty after many years of home-making which allowed their husbands to pursue careers without the burden of childbearing and housework. Many of these women are disintitiled by divorce to an equal share in their husband's federal pension credits which were accumulated during their marriage.

The petition requests Parliament to amend all federal superannuation acts to allow for retroactive pension splitting for all divorced spouses so that they may receive one half of the pension credits they deserve. This would simply take an amendment to Bill C-55 which is before the House now. I hope that all members will support these petitioners in their desire for fairness.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by a number of residents of Thunder Bay. They point out that this government had promised to freeze unemployment insurance premiums for three years and that a recent decision last year to increase those premiums is unfair and insensitive to small businesses during hard economic times. They point out that further job losses due to business closures would further impair the changes for a full recovery, something we heard earlier today.

The petitioners, therefore, call upon Parliament to freeze unemployment insurance premium rates at the 1991 level for one year.

• (1520)

REFUGEES

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour to table a petition on behalf of 5,000 Canadians who wish to draw to the attention of this House the deplorable fate of refugee claimants in Canada.

The delay in processing claims has caused great physical, social, psychological and emotional harm to the claimants, their families and those who assist them. Canadian taxpayers have spent unjustifiably exorbitant amounts of funds on a determination system that has proved to be inequitable and ineffective.