

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, September 24, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

TABLING OF CONSULTATION PAPER—SURVIVORS' BENEFITS

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government I am pleased to table in both official languages the Survivors' Benefits under the Canada Pension Plan Consultation Paper.

With the consent of the House I would ask that this consultation paper be referred to the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare for further study.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the request of the Hon. Minister. Is there consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO TAX ON FOOD

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Pursuant to Standing Order 106, Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure and honour today to present petitions which bear the signatures of a great many residents of my Ottawa-Vanier riding and who humbly sheweth that:

Whereas, since September, 1984, the federal Government has imposed on Canadian taxpayers 24 new taxes or tax increases, in particular on medical and dental supplies, snack foods, candy and soft drinks;

Whereas the federal Government in its tax reform proposal has studied the possibility of imposing on Canadians a general tax on goods and services, including food; and whereas food

constitutes a vital element of day-to-day life and imposition of this tax would have the effect of seriously penalizing certain categories of taxpayers, such as the aged, families, the unemployed, low income taxpayers, youth;

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject all measures that would have the effect of imposing a sales tax on food products.

[*English*]

OPPOSITION TO BILL C-55

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by residents of Ottawa and area. The petitioners call upon the Parliament of Canada to ensure that the Government withdraws Bill C-55 and substitutes legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board that is independent of the Immigration Commission. The petitioners feel that universal access to such hearings should be assured for every applicant in Canada, and also the right to appeal on the basis of fact.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition from a number of residents of Canada that has been duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. The petitioners request that Parliament reverse the new restrictive immigration regulations and allow all legitimate refugees to find asylum in our democratic country, and be granted an oral hearing before an independent judicial body that will determine the legitimacy of each claim.

Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to do these things, and in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to present a petition from Canadians who note that Bill C-55 threatens Canada's traditional commitment to assisting refugees. It sets out measures designed to keep most refugee claimants out of the country, as opposed to ensuring that genuine refugee claimants are given protection.

Therefore, the petitioners call for withdrawal of Bill C-55 and request that other measures be implemented to assure quick oral hearings in order that refugee claimants can appeal to a refugee board which is independent of the Immigration Commission, and that there is universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada with the right of appeal.