

OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN CHANGES CONCERNING THE
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition which it is my privilege to present on behalf of the constituents of the riding of Papineau—Saint-Michel, who signed this petition at the invitation of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand). The undersigned believe that the Government of Canada erred in its proposals to make considerable cuts in unemployment insurance benefits, to impose stricter conditions for eligibility and to reduce the benefit period.

The undersigned are particularly incensed that the Canadian Government will stop paying its share of \$2.9 billion into the unemployment insurance fund, leaving the program's financing up to workers and their employers.

[*English*]

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE ORCHESTRA

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from constituents of Ottawa—Vanier and from many communities within that riding to the effect that they consider the National Arts Centre Orchestra an excellent world-class orchestra which has brought fame to Canada and its capital city.

Whereas the petitioners believe that the NAC orchestra is in imminent danger of being damaged or even destroyed, and whereas they consider the present management to have proved itself to be incompetent and inadequate in artistic matters, the undersigned petition this House that, as a matter of priority, to ensure that the National Arts Centre maintain its orchestra at its current size and present standard of excellence, and ensure that sound cultural credentials be the main criterion for any new appointments to the NAC board of trustees.

[*Translation*]

LEBANON—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting a petition signed by more than 4,000 people from Montreal, asking the Government to do something about the terrible situation in Lebanon.

Petitions

The undersigned are worried about their relatives and friends who are still living in Lebanon, in these difficult circumstances.

For Lebanese citizens, life is a daily struggle. A shortage of medical care, electric power and even drinking water makes life very difficult and sometimes intolerable.

The undersigned are asking the Government to bring pressure to bear to stop the useless killing in Lebanon and to demand the immediate withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armed forces and militia from Lebanese territory.

I wish to join the undersigned in asking the Government to show support for the independence of Lebanon and the security of its citizens.

[*English*]

EXTRADITION LAW AMENDMENTS

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to present a petition containing 3,370 signatures certified pursuant to Standing Order 36, which are to be added to some 53,000 already submitted by other Members of this House.

The petitioners behind these thousands of signatures call upon the Government of Canada to revise its extradition laws in order that we may prevent Canada from becoming a haven for escaped convicts, convicted murderers and those charged with a commission of atrocious crimes in the United States.

The petitioners humbly pray that the Government of Canada address the problem immediately.

OFFSHORE HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, considering that today there is a massive rally taking place in British Columbia against the logging of Carmanah Valley, I think it is appropriate that I present this petition on behalf of a number of British Columbians who are also concerned about another environmental issue, namely, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas off the West Coast of Canada. They are calling upon Parliament to do whatever we can to encourage the Government to prohibit any type of exploration for these kinds of activities off the West Coast.