

*Routine Proceedings***PEACE TRUST FUND ACT**

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-414, an act respecting the establishment of a peace trust fund.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed adopted.

Mr. Funk: It gives me pleasure to introduce this bill to the House with the support of the hon. member for Victoria.

This bill would permit individuals who object on conscientious grounds to paying taxes that might be used for military purposes to direct that the amount equivalent to a prescribed percentage of the income tax they pay for military purposes in a particular year be diverted to a peace trust fund established by this bill.

The principle of conscientious objection has a long and honourable history dating back to the reformation. However, in this era of high-tech warfare many conscientious objectors, many of them members of the historic peace churches such as Quakers, Mennonites and others, believe that their tax dollars serve as surrogates for physical participation in military activities. They are thus seeking a legal avenue to contribute their tax dollars to other means of seeking peace in the world.

I believe this is a timely piece of legislation because even those who do not personally accept a conscientious objection position are becoming increasingly aware of the limitations of military solutions to problems like those in Bosnia and Somalia.

This legislation would end the present unacceptable situation where otherwise law-abiding citizens are running afoul of Revenue Canada with serious consequences for themselves and their families merely for exercising their profoundest beliefs with regard to participation in war and military activities.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Mr. Funk moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.

PETITIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my first petition is from petitioners who are anxious to make sure that Parliament scrutinizes very closely the language used on both radio and television. They are also concerned about acts of violence on television, particularly in a society such as ours where it would appear as if violent acts are becoming increasingly frequent.

The petitioners point out that what occurs in the media, that is on radio and television, with respect to inappropriate language and violence does in fact counter some of the efforts being made in the family. They also underline that it is not necessary to use inappropriate language or acts of violence to entertain or to inform.

• (1015)

EDUCATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the other petition is from the Canadian Federation of Students from Saskatchewan.

Their sentiments I believe are shared by students all across the country. They denounce the government's policies with respect to education, the 3 per cent tax on student loans and the additional six months' interest. They want a fair system of student aid. They are really quite concerned about the current program that the government has advanced, particularly with respect to sharing the risk with the banks.

The petitioners want to know who is going to be eligible. Who is going to set up the eligibility requirements and what role will the banks have in this particular process?

THREE GORGES DAM PROJECT

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour today to present a petition concerning the Three Gorges dam project in China.

Because of the serious environmental impact of such a project and the fact that such a project would displace over one million people, the petitioners call upon the government to pass necessary legislation to prevent any further involvement by the Government of Canada in the Three Gorges dam project. They also ask that the government refuse to participate in or provide technical assistance, loans, grants, guarantees or subsidies in any