

## Petitions

● (1510)

[English]

## CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege of presenting a petition signed by hundreds of individuals in the Windsor and Toronto area, in which they protest the severance pay changes which will affect their collection of unemployment insurance benefits. The petition calls upon this House to make sure that all laid off employees who receive severance pay will be able to keep their severance pay and also collect their unemployment insurance benefits without the one affecting the other.

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition signed by residents of Ottawa Centre dealing with the effects of the proposed changes to the unemployment insurance contributions which will treat returned pension contributions as income for the purpose of determining eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. The petitioners point out the hardship this would cause and request that this action be reconsidered.

## CHANGES TO OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition which concerns Bill C-26. It is also signed by residents of Ottawa who would like to see the extension of spouse's allowance to all single persons in need. They point out that it is discriminatory to limit it to widowed people and that there are many people between the age of 60 years and 64 years who are also in need of similar provisions.

## CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further petition signed by Ottawa residents which concerns the recent administrative changes which treat severance pay as income for the purpose of determining eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. The petitioners point out that this causes severe hardship, particularly in areas where laid off workers have no hope of finding work easily and they request that this decision be reconsidered.

[Translation]

## REQUEST TO AMEND BILL C-26

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, once again today, I have the privilege of presenting a petition from the people of the towns of Barachois and Scoudouc, in New Brunswick, who are requesting changes to Bill C-26.

[English]

## THE CONSTITUTION

## AMENDMENT RESPECTING POWERS OF SENATE

## On the Order: Government Notices of Motions:

That:

Whereas the Prime Minister of Canada is committed to convening before the end of 1987 a constitutional conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces to consider proposals for the reform of the Senate;

And whereas it is expedient, at this time, that the powers of the Senate with respect to bills that are passed by the House of Commons be limited;

And whereas sections 38 and 42 of the Constitution Act, 1982 provide that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the Senate and House of Commons and resolutions of the legislative assemblies as provided for in section 38 thereof;

Now therefore the House of Commons resolves that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada be authorized to be made by proclamation issued by Her Excellency the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada in accordance with the schedule hereto.

## SCHEDULE

## AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

1. The Constitution Act, 1867 is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 54 thereof, the following sections:

"54.1 (1) Where a money bill, having been passed by the House of Commons, is presented to the Senate at least thirty days before the end of the session but is not passed by the Senate without amendment within thirty days after it is presented, the bill shall, unless the House of Commons directs to the contrary, be presented to the Governor General for assent, whether or not Parliament is then in session, and when assented to shall have the same force and effect as if passed by the Senate.

(2) There shall be endorsed on every money bill when it is presented to the Senate and when it is presented to the Governor General for assent the certificate of the Speaker of the House of Commons signed by the Speaker that it is a money bill.

(3) A certificate of the Speaker of the House of Commons given under subsection (2) shall be conclusive for all purposes, and shall not be questioned in any court of law.

(4) In this section and section 54.2, "money bill" means a public bill that, in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, contains only provisions dealing with the following:

- (a) the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation;
- (b) the imposition for the payment of debt or other financial purposes of charges on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or on money provided by Parliament, or the variation or repeal of such charges;
- (c) supply;
- (d) the appropriation, receipt, custody or issue of public money;
- (e) the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof; or
- (f) subordinate matters related to any of the matters set out in paragraphs (a) to (e).

54.2 (1) Where any bill, other than a money bill, having been passed by the House of Commons, is presented to the Senate at least forty-five days before the end of the session but is not passed by the Senate within forty-five days after it is presented, the bill shall, unless the House of Commons directs to the contrary, be presented to the Governor General for assent, whether or not Parliament is then in session, and when assented to shall have the same force and effect as if passed by the Senate.

(2) Where any bill, other than a money bill, having been passed by the House of Commons and presented to the Senate, is passed with amendments by the Senate, and the House of Commons does not concur in the amendments within fifteen days after the bill is passed by the Senate, the bill, in the form in