

Routine Proceedings

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce my second private member's bill today, seconded by the hon. member for Crowfoot and co-sponsored by a number of my colleagues.

If passed by Parliament, my bill will improve the possibility of obtaining a criminal conviction of anyone who knowingly infects another person with HIV, thereby exposing the victim to the fear and risk of contracting AIDS and certain death if he or she does.

If enacted, my bill will create two new offences related to wilful or reckless acts by a person infected with HIV or a person who has AIDS. If the act results in infection with HIV, the offence is criminal infection, with a maximum sentence of imprisonment for life, the same maximum penalty now imposed for manslaughter. The rationale is that victims infected with HIV face a life of fear of contracting AIDS and certain death if they do. In the event the infection with HIV is not proven, the offence is reckless infective behaviour, punishable by imprisonment for up to seven years.

Consent is often an issue in prosecutions under other provisions of the Criminal Code, and this creates problems for the courts. For example, the question of whether a victim consents—

The Speaker: I think we have the general idea. I thank the hon. member very much for his explanation.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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• (1515)

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, if the House gives its consent, I move that the 94th report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, presented to the House earlier this day, be concurred in. This is the membership change report, in case members are confused.

Also, if the House gives its consent, and I believe there is consent forthcoming, I move that the 95th report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, presented to the House earlier this day, be concurred in. This report is the one that deals with the extension of the deadline for the report of the committee on the business of supply.

(Motions agreed to.)

PETITIONS

CANADIAN UNITY

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to present a petition from my constituents stating the importance of young people and how their voices must be heard when we make decisions that will inherently affect their future.

A healthy and safe environment, meaningful employment and education are issues that affect all of us but they have a more profound effect on our country's youth, as does a united Canada, a country which includes Quebec.

[Translation]

These petitioners want to make sure that, when making decisions that affect young people, whether these decisions concern employment, learning, retraining or training, the constitution or this country in general, we take into consideration our young people in Quebec and the rest of Canada.

[English]

PORT OF CHURCHILL

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have two separate petitions to present.

The first one is signed by constituents of the Yorkton—Melville riding concerned about the port of Churchill. They feel that the full utilization of the port of Churchill will improve the economy not only of the province of Saskatchewan but of Canada as well. There is a need to develop a strategy to utilize this important seaport to ship other exports as well as grain.

Therefore they urge that the upcoming shipping season usage of the port of Churchill be maximized at the very least to 5 per cent of Canada's annual grain shipment.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I should like to present a second petition on behalf of 796 concerned citizens from my riding of Yorkton—Melville regarding S-241 of the Criminal Code of Canada which was enacted to protect all individuals. If S-241 were struck down or amended, protection to the disabled, the terminally ill, the depressed, the chronically ill and the elderly would no longer exist and our most vulnerable members of society would feel an implied pressure to end their lives.

Therefore, the House is urged not to repeal or amend S-241 of the Criminal Code and to uphold the Supreme Court of Canada decision of September 30 to disallow assisted suicide or euthanasia.