

their only crime being they were operating without a broadcasting licence.

Unfortunately these stations cannot obtain a broadcasting licence. By definition the program of single denomination religious broadcasting station is contrary to the intent of the Broadcasting Act and subsequent CRTC guidelines with respect to balance, fairness, public property and Canadian expression.

In October 1992 the CRTC began public consultations into its religious broadcasting policy. I believe this is an acknowledgement by the CRTC that the conditions have changed so much since the policy was developed that a policy review is now appropriate.

The amendment proposed by this bill would enable single denomination religious stations to obtain broadcasting licences. It would also recognize a fundamental right that Canadians enjoy in every other communications medium, the right to freedom of expression.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Mr. Thorkelson 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.

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

REQUEST FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a petition from residents of Val d'Or, Sullivan, Sainte-Gertrude and Amos, in the riding of Abitibi, who say that films depicting violence on television are dangerous and therefore unacceptable because they act as a stimulus for violent behaviour.

The petition also says that all toys that incite children to play violent games are unacceptable and their manufacture should be banned. It is also pointed out that repeated broadcasting of news about acts of violence on television, on all channels, and on radio may act as a stimulus for further identical violent behaviour.

Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass the appropriate legislation in order to

eliminate violence in our society and thus protect our children and give all citizens a better quality of life.

[English]

Routine Proceedings

CHILD POVERTY

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present today that has been certified as to form and content.

The petitioners state that on November 24, 1989 the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion stating:

That this House express its concern for the more than one million Canadian children currently living in poverty and seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.

Poverty among children inhibits learning and preparation for employment, constituting a cost to future national productivity. Sound national financial management demands the prevention of poverty. Child poverty is a fundamental reality of family poverty. Canada has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and has a moral obligation to seek the elimination of child poverty in Canada. A political commitment to eliminate child poverty in Canada requires public commitment and initiative among broad sectors of the Canadian population at local and national levels.

• (1510)

Therefore the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to take the actions necessary to reaffirm its commitment to seek the elimination of poverty among children in Canada by the year 2000 and to develop a plan for the implementation of this commitment.

VIOLENCE

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have three sets of petitions to present today.

The first one calls upon Parliament to understand that many studies have shown a link between violence and entertainment and desensitization to violence in our society; that hundreds of women, men and children, including seniors and the disabled, are killed every year by an increasing number of people who state that they got the idea from something they saw or who did not grasp and respect the humanity of their victims; that we are increasingly becoming a culture of violence and violence has become an ordinary part of our children's lives; that part of this culture is a game called the serial killer board game; and that the laws of Canada do not