

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

AUTHORIZATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology) moved:

That in relation to its study on sustainable energy and mineral development, eight members and one staff of the Standing Committee on Energy, Mines and Resources be authorized to travel to Kananaskis, Alberta from May 20 to May 21, 1992 to attend the conference on industry and hydrogen.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. parliamentary secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present to the House a petition signed by a number of my constituents living in the Napanee area situated in my riding of Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington.

These petitioners are supporting the government's commitment as stated in the Speech from the Throne of May 13, 1991 to introduce legislation which could permit a national referendum on the Constitution.

• (1050)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of western Canadians who point out that two Canadians, Christine Lamont and David Spencer, have been sentenced to 28 years each in a Brazilian prison and there they have suffered miscarriages of justice, cruel

Routine Proceedings

and unusual treatment and certainly very clear discrimination in the sentencing and parole decision.

The petitioners point out that the cumulative effect of these irregularities provide ample ground for the Government of Canada to seek a remedy on their behalf and are calling upon Parliament to urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to request the Government of Brazil to expel Christine Lamont and David Spencer and return them to Canada.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Madam Speaker, I am presenting this petition on behalf of my constituents of Simcoe Centre who have signed this petition: "The undersigned believe that constitutional amendments should be ratified by the people of Canada via a referendum".

VIOLENCE

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House petitions signed by more than 1,500 of my constituents, petitions which were prompted by the murder in August 1991 of Nina de Villiers. These constituents feel that vulnerable persons in our society are currently not being protected adequately by our justice system. They feel that crimes of violence against people are intolerable and constitute the abhorrent crime that society faces. They are concerned that sentencing in crimes of violence does not appropriately reflect society's intolerance and abhorrence of these particular crimes.

They are petitioning this House to review the justice system so that there is more protection for vulnerable people in our society.

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise under Standing Order 36 and present a petition signed by many of my constituents from Malpeque, Prince Edward Island. It concerns the cancellation of the Court Challenges Program by the government.

This petition states: "Whereas the Court Challenges Program has been, should continue to be an essential tool in the evolution of constitutional rights in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms accessible to all Canadians seeking justice from the courts, the Court