

Routine Proceedings

Nault
Nystrom
Pagtakhan
Pickard
Prud'homme
Riis
Robinson
Rodriguez
Stewart
Tobin
Volpe
Whittaker
Young (Gloucester)

Nunziata
Ouellet
Phinney
Proud
Rideout
Robichaud
Rocheleau
Skelly (Comox—Alberni)
Taylor
Vanclief
Wappel
Wood
Young (Beaches—Woodbine)—86

• (1620)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I declare the motion carried.

Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Madam Speaker, there have been discussions between the parties *vis-à-vis* Friday of this week, and I think you would find that there would be unanimous consent for me to move the following motion and for it to be adopted, without debate.

I move:

That on Friday, December 8, 1989, at 10 o'clock a.m., following Prayers, the House will hear a statement from the Secretary of State of Canada, followed by replies from spokespersons on the subject of International Human Rights Day and;

That the remainder of Friday, December 8, 1989, be according to Standing Orders governing Fridays, provided that any time taken for the statement and replies be added to the time allowed for Government Orders starting at two o'clock p.m. and the hour for Private Members' Business begin immediately thereafter.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): 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.

* * *

PETITIONS

VIA RAIL

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, I have the duty and the honour to present several petitions on the subject of VIA Rail closures, signed by 1,663 persons mainly resident in the constituency of Brant, who call

upon the government to rescind the order to curtail VIA Rail services until after the report of the Commission on National Transportation.

They call upon the government to maintain, upgrade and increase passenger rail service in this country.

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION ON
FISCAL INDEMNIFICATION OF ISOLATED AND NORTHERN
AREAS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am today tabling a petition signed by workers in Lebel-sur-Quévillon and their wives against the task force on fiscal compensation for isolated and northern areas, which recommends abolishing travel deductions for medical reasons for northern workers within a year and limiting fiscal compensation for isolated and northern areas to places north of 51°05'N latitude.

Madam Speaker, the people of Lebel-sur-Quévillon reject the recommendations of the task force on fiscal compensation for isolated and northern areas because this task force did not take into consideration that in 1989, for the Government of Quebec, the North begins at the 49th parallel and that on May 26, 1989, the Minister of Finance changed the rules after consulting only 250 groups.

[*English*]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Madam Speaker, at the same time as Transport 2000 in concert with Rural Dignity Canada is rallying in front of Parliament Hill concerning VIA Rail cuts, it is my honour pursuant to Standing Order 36 to table petitions on behalf of my constituents of Parkdale—High Park who also ask this government that no further cuts in VIA Rail be made.

They argue that this would reduce the ability of many Canadians to travel economically within Canada. Rail service is more environmentally sound. The Canadian railroad has bound this country together. It is our heritage. It was part of our Confederation, so they appeal strongly that this government not cut VIA Rail but expand the services with modern state of the art equipment.