

Routine Proceedings

• (1110)

PETITIONS

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from a number of petitioners in central British Columbia from a variety of communities.

They point out that the choice to bear or not to bear children is a matter of personal choice and not of criminal law. They feel that criminal sanctions do nothing to address the reasons why women seek abortions or to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies. Therefore, they are calling upon Parliament to refrain from imposing any criminal sanctions against abortion.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by a number of people from a variety of communities in central British Columbia who are opposed to the 7 per cent goods and services tax.

They are calling on the Liberals in the Senate to do the honourable thing, listen to the people of Canada and vote against the legislation as opposed simply to holding more public hearings.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from Kamloops and other parts of central British Columbia.

The petitioners are concerned about the future of passenger rail service and recognize that the government has cut back severely in terms of VIA Rail. They feel that this was exactly the opposite to what ought to have occurred, and are asking the government to invest in a decent passenger rail service for Canada because of its environmentally friendly nature.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): On another topic, Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from petitioners in Kamloops who are asking that the government consider introducing a bill of rights for children. They point out a whole variety of areas in which children are living in poverty by increasing numbers. They feel a comprehensive bill of

rights for children would be the appropriate course of action to take.

[*Translation*]

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition on behalf of residents of Quebec, and more specifically, of Montreal, Quebec City, the riding of Chambly and several other communities.

Your petitioners call upon this House to consider that the choice whether or not to bring a pregnancy to term is a personal choice and not a matter for the Criminal Code. Furthermore, your petitioners state that criminal sanctions fail to address the reasons why a woman wants an abortion and do not in any way reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

[*English*]

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under Standing Order 36 to present petitions to this House from British Columbia and from virtually every province in the country.

The petition states that the choice to bear children or not to bear children is a matter of personal choice and not one of criminal law.

It goes on to state that the Canadian Medical Association already has guidelines and regulations in place concerning abortion. Criminal sanctions do nothing to address the reasons why women seek abortion and do nothing to reduce the numbers of unwanted pregnancies.

These petitioners call on the government to refrain from imposing any criminal sanctions against abortion.

The total number of these petitions is 30. There are some 3,600 signatures altogether on them. The petitioners come from my riding of New Westminster—Burnaby and Surrey, B.C. There are 406 signatures from Kingston and the Islands. The other petitioners are from Toronto, Ottawa, Regina, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and from Nova Scotia.

Women and men across Canada who believe in women's integrity are all asking this government to refrain from bringing in criminal sanctions against women.